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Myers, J. P.

1973-74

catalogue

#03 - #183

Paraguay

Argentina

JPMyers
1973

Catalogue

17 Km E of Luque by road, Dept Central, Paraguay

20 July 03 ♂? Synallaxis spixa 11.5g slight fat
T=1x2mm
04 ♂ Schoeniophylax phryganophila 16.1g med fat

1 Km S of Tobati by road, Dept Central Paraguay

21 July 05 ♀ Troglodytes aedon ov=6mm 13g mod fat

17 Km E of Luque by road, Dept Central Paraguay

23 July 06 ♀ Turdus amaurochalinus ov=4x8mm 65g heavy fat
07 ♂ Poliioptila plumbea T=1mm 12.8g med fat sk 1/1 oss.

275 Km W of Villa Hayes by road, Dept. Pres. Hayes, Paraguay

27 July 08 ♂ ~~Myiozetetes similis~~ T=1x2mm 26.5g slight fat sk. 1/1 oss

by lagoon at Eaton's ranch at retiro 1 Km N trans chaco highway, 300 Km NW of
Villa Hayes, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

30 August 09 ♀ lesser yellowlegs ov=6mm 83g heavy fat
10 ♀ solitary spiper light ovaries 0.5mm 51g med fat

365 Km NW Villa Hayes by road, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

Sept 1 11 ♀ solitary spiper ov=6x2mm 53g heavy fat sk≠oss.
Sept 3 12 ♂ Pectoral spiper T=4x1.5mm 64g med fat
13 ♂ Pectoral spiper T=3x1mm 61g sk=¼ oss slight fat

320 Km NW of Villa Hayes, by road Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

14 ♂ buff breasted spiper T=3mm 56g mod fat
15 ♀ buff breasted spiper ov=6x2mm 41.3g mod fat
4 Sept 16 ♀ white rumped ov=6x3mm 31g mod fat
17 ♂ white rumped T=2x1mm 31g sk=3/4 oss mod fat

20 Km NE of Trans-chaco highway, 320 Km NW of Villa Hayes, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

18 ♀ wilson's phalarope ov=8x3mm 48g slight fat

Km 928 on Provincial Route #157, NW of Buenos Aires by road, Prcia de Cordoba, Argentina

Oct 3 19 ♀ Baird's ov=5x3mm 32g mod fat
20 ♂ Baird's T=2x1mm 29.5g slight fat

Catalogue

5 Km South of Juanche by road, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

13 October 021 ♂ T=3x21mm Pectoral 77g heavy fat body molt

35 Km South of Juancho by road, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

022 ♀ OV=6x3mm Buff breasted 52g mod fat beginning body molt

Laguna Mar Chiquita, 22 Km N of Mar Chiquita by road, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

16 October 023 ♂ T=2.5x1mm White-rump 32.5g slight fat body molt (total)

35 Km South of Juancho by road, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

024 ♀ ov=7x4mm Buff breasted 59g heavy fat body molt

Laguna Mar Chiquita, 22 Km N of Mar Chiquita by road, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 October 025 ♂ T=2.5x1mm White rump 39g heavy fat body molt

026 ♂ T=2x1mm White rump 36.5g moderate fat body molt

027 ♀ ov=8x3mm White rump 38.0g moderate fat body molt

028 ♂ T=2x1 White rump 38g mod fat body molt

029 ♀ ov=8x4mm White rump 38.5g mod fat body molt

35 Km South of Juancho by road, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

030 ♂ T=2.5x1.5mm Pectoral 79g mod fat body molt - solitary

031 ♀ OV=7x3mm Buff breasted 59g heavy fat body molt

20 October Salitral de la Vidriera, 31 Km S of Bahia Blanca, by road, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

032 ♂ T=2x1mm Baird's 36gm slight fat

Golfo San Jose 27 Km N of Puerto Piramides, Peninsula Valdes, Prvcia de Chubut, Argentina

25 Oct 033 ♀ ov=7x4mm White-rump 40g mod fat body molt

21 Km N of Malaspina by road, Prvcia de Chubut Argentina ele. 2000'

034 ♀ OV=7x3mm Baird's 43g heavy fat body molt SK=3/4 oss.

60 Km N of San Julian by road Prvcia de Santa Cruz, Argentina ele. 500'

27 October 035 ♂ T=2x1mm Baird's 40g very heavy fat body molt SK=2/3 oss.

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285 Km N of Rio Gallegos by road, Prcia de Santa Cruz, Argentina

28 October	036 ♂ t=3x1 mm	Baird's	heavy fat 37g	SK=7/8 oss

80 Km N of Rio Gallegos by road, Prcia de Santa Cruz, Argentina

6 November	037 ♂ T=7x4mm	Ch. falklandicus	mod fat 66g	SK=3/4 oss

100 Km N of Rio Gallegos by road, Prcia de Santa Cruz, Argentina

	038	Baird's		
	039	Baird's		
	040	Baird's		

35 Km S of Juancho by road, Partido de Madariaga, Prcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

25 November	041 ♂ T=3.5x2mm	Pl. dominicus	heavy fat 146g	SK=7/8 oss body molt
	042 ♀ ov=8x3mm	Buffy	53g	mod fat body molt
28 November	043 ♂ T=3x2mm	Buffy	62g	mod fat body molt SK=3/4 oss
	044 ♂ t=3x2mm	Buffy	63g	mod-fat body molt SK=2/3 oss
	045 ♂ ♀ ov=11x7	Golden Plover	139g	heavy fat body molt
	046 ♂ t=3x1mm	Pectoral	75g	heavy fat body molt (possible bursa) flock
	047 ♂ t=3x1 mm	Pectoral	76g	heavy fat body molt flock
1 January	048 ♂ t=3x1 mm	White-rump	37g	mod fat body molt SK=3/4 oss
	049 ♀ ov=8x3mm	White-rump	38g	heavy fat body molt SK=7/8 oss
	050 ♂ T=3x1mm	White rump	35g	heavy fat body molt SK=3/4 oss
3 January	051 ♂ T=2.8x1mm	White rump	35g	heavy fat body molt SK=3/4 oss
	052 ♂ t=2.5x1mm	white rump	36g	heavy fat body molt
	053 ♂ t=2.2x1mm	white rump	33g	mod fat SK=3/5 oss body molt
4 January	054 ♂ T=2.5x1.5mm	white rump	39g	SK=7/8 oss body molt
5 January	055 ♀ ov=7x3.5mm	Pectoral	55g	heavy fat SK=3/4 oss body molt
	056 ♀ ov=9.1x4.5mm	Pectoral	58g	heavy fat body molt SK=3/4
	057 ♂ T=2.3x1.5mm	Pectoral	80g	very heavy fat SK=3/4 body molt
	058 ♀ ov=7x3 mm	Pectoral	55g	very heavy fat SK=2/3 body molt
	059 ♂ (juv?) T=1.8x1mm	White rump	38g	heavy fat SK=2/3 body molt (possible bursa)

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35 km S of Juancho by road (Estancia Medeland), Ptdo. de Madariaga, Provcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

5 January (cont'd)	ov=5x2.5mm 060 ♀	White rump		37g	heavy fat body molt sk=2/3 oss.
7 January	T=3.2x2mm 061 ♂	Buff-breasted Sandpiper		64g	very heavy fat body molt sk=1/3 oss
	T=3.5x2mm 062 ♂	Buff-breasted Sandpiper		64g	heavy fat body molt sk=1/2 oss.
	T=2.2x1mm 063 ♂	White-rump		35g	mod fat body molt sk=3/4 oss
8 January	064 chick	Southern lapwing		78g	slight fat
10 January	T=2.5x1.2mm 065 ♂ juv. *	Pectoral	territorial! Juvenile Bursa=7x6mm	76g	heavy fat body molt sk=3/3 oss
	ov=8x4mm 066 ♀ ad	White rump	Territorial	39g	heavy fat body molt sk=1/2 oss
13 January	ov=8x3mm 067 ♀ ad	Buff-breasted		46g	heavy fat body molt
	T=3.4x1.5mm 068 ♂ ad	Buff breasted		63g	v. heavy fat body molt
—	T=3.0x1.5mm 069 ♂ juv *	Buff breasted	Bursa (?) = 4.5x3mm	61g	heavy fat body molt sk=
—	T=3x1mm				mod fat
15 January	070 ♂ juv *	White-rump	Territorial Bursa = 5x5mm	34g	body molt
—	T=3x1mm 071 ♂ juv *	White-rump	Bursa = 8x5mm territorial	38g	heavy fat body molt sk=1/2 oss
	T=2.3x1.2mm				mod fat
18 January	072 ♂ juv *	White-rump	Bursa = 6x5mm territorial	35g	body molt sk=1/2
	ov=5x3 073 ♀ juv *	White rump	Bursa = 5x8mm Territorial	40g	mod fat body molt sk=2/3
24 January	074 alcohol	Snake "Harrier"		305g	
	075	alcohol Buff breasted Sandpiper		61g	
	076	alcohol Buff breasted Sandpiper		88g	
	077	alcohol Buff Breasted		59g	
	078	alcohol Buff breasted		64g	
12 February	T=3x2mm 079 ♂	[illegible]		22.2g	sl. fat
13 February	t=8x4mm 080 ♂ ad	[illegible]		69.5g	heavy fat body molt
	081 juv	[illegible]	bursa = 8x5mm	65.5g	heavy fat
	ov=8x5mm 082 ♀ juv	Whit-rump	bursa	39g	heavy fat body molt sk=1/2
17 February	ov=8x5mm 083 ♀ juv	Buff-breasted	bursa	49.5g	heavy fat body molt sk=1/2
	ov=6x2.5mm 084 ♀ juv	Buff-breasted	bursa=4.5x4mm	49g	heavy fat body molt sk=1/3 oss
	ov=7x4mm 085 ♀ juv	Buff-breasted	bursa=6x5mm	47g	heavy fat body molt sk=1/2

Draft

Sept 2 Jan 9
Oct 3 Feb 3 : 25 29
Nov 3 March 05 9
Dec 0

Brands

Sept 0
Oct 6
Nov 3
Dec 0

Test

Sept 2 Jan 3
Oct 2 Feb 1 : 15
Nov 2 March 3
Dec 1

WR

Sept 2 Jan 15
Oct 7 Feb 1 - 12 47
Nov 0 March 19 89 19
Dec 3 April 06

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35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pucia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

24 February	086	alcohol	White rump	non-territorial	38g	
	087	alcohol	White rump	non territorial	37.5g	
	088	alcohol	White rump	non territorial	37g	
	089	♀ juv	Pectoral	bursa=5×5 mm	54g	ov=9×4mm; very heavy fat body molt; heavy fat sk=3/4
	090	♀ ad	White rump	non territorial	38g	ov=10×4; body molt; heavy fat sk=2/3
	091	♀ juv	White rump	non territorial bursa=6×6	36g	ov=8×3; body molt; mod fat
5 March	092	♂ ad	Thinocorus rumicivorus		51g	T=9.7×1mm; follicles present; mod fat
	093	♂ ad	Thinocorus rumicivorus		54.5g	T=4.5×1mm; few follicles present; mod fat
	094	♀	Buff-breasted Sandpiper		47.9g	ov=7.5×3mm; body molt sk=1/3; heavy fat
	095	♀ juv	Pectoral	ova beginning to darktop bursa almost involuted	57g	ov=7.5×4mm; body molt; heavy fat
7 March	096	♀	Buff-breasted	possible very involuted bursa, but questionable	49g	ov=9×3mm; fair fat

Mouth of Canal 7 into Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N of Mar Chiquita, Ptdo de Mar Chiquita, Pucia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

8 March	097	♀ juv	White rump	bursa=7×7mm	42.5g	ov=8×3 mm; heavy fat sk=1/3; body molt
	098	♀ ad (?)	White rump	ova beginning to differentiate	45g	ov=7×4mm; very heavy fat sk=1/2; body molt
	099	♀ juv	White-rump	bursa=4×4mm	39.5g	heavy fat sk=1/3; body molt
	100	♀ juv	White rump	bursa=3×4	44.5g	ov=7×3mm; v. heavy fat sk=1/2; body molt; mod fat
	101	♀ juv	White rump	bursa=7×7	41g	ov=7×3mm; body mot; v. heavy fat
	102	♀	White-rump	ova developing	48.5g	ov=9×5mm; body molt; v. heavy fat
	103	♂	White rump	no obvious bursa, questionable	41g	T=3.5×1.5 mm; body molt; mod fat
	104	♀	White rump	bursa=7×6mm	37g	ov=6×3 mm
	105	♀ juv	White rump	bursa=5×6mm	34.5g	T=3×0.7mm; very heavy fat sk=3/4
	106	♂ juv	White-rumped Sandpiper	bursa=5×6mm	59.5	T=2.5×.7mm
	107	♂ juv	Stilt Sandpiper	bursa=4×6mm	55.5g	ov=8×4
11 March	108	♀ ad	White-rump	ova differentiating	42.5	

35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pucia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 March	109		alcohol	Buffy		very heavy fat
	110	♀	Buffy	possible very almost involuted bursa, questionable	stomach contents kept	56g ov=8×4

414
491
34
41
38
198

Catalogue

35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia. de Buenos Aires Argentina

13 March	ov=8×5mm 111 ♀	Pectoral	possible juvenile – possible bursa in last stages of involution?	heavy fat 55.5g body molt	
	ov=10×5mm 112 ♀ad	Thinocorus rumicivorus		heavy fat 70.5g follicles present	
14 March	T=3×2mm 113 ♂ad	White rump	"filter-feeding", non territorial ~~stomach contents~~ kept	V. heavy fat SK=4/3 38g body molt	
	T=3.2×1.2mm 114 ♂juv(?)	White rump	"search-peck feeding", non territorial stomach contents kept, bursa almost involuted	V. heavy fat SK=1/2 40g body molt	
17 March	ov=7.5×3mm 115 ♀ad(?)	Buff-breasted	stomach kept	50.0 heavy fat body molt SK=1/3	
20 March	ov=8×4mm 116 ♀juv	Buff-breasted	bursa almost involuted	V. heavy fat!! 63.0g SK=1/3	
21 March	ov=7×5 bursa almost involuted 117 ♀juv	Pectoral	territorial	heavy fat SK=1/2 body molt 58.0g	
22 March	T=3×1.5 118 ♂ ad.	Thinocorus rumicivorus		mod fat 73g follicles present	
	T=4×1.5mm 119 ♂	[illegible]		mod fat 80.5 follicles present	
23 March	ov=6×3mm 120 ♀ juv bursa=5×4mm	[illegible]	White-rump flocking	heavy fat 36.0 body molt fat follicles	
	ov=7×3mm 121 ♀ juv(?) bursa almost completely involuted (questionable)	[illegible]	White-rump flocking	heavy fat 35.6 body molt SK=2/3	
	ov=7.3×3.5 122 ♀juv bursa=6×5	Buff-breasted		heavy fat 44.5 body molt	
	ov=6.5×3 123 ♀juv bursa=5×4	Buff-breasted		heavy fat 50.5 SK=1/2 body molt	
	ov=7×[illegible]mm 124 ♀juv bursa=3.5×3mm	Buff-breasted		Very heavy fat SK=1/3 body molt 6[illegible].[illegible]	

Punta Raza, 15 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyú by road, Ptdo de Gral. LaValle, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

29 March	ov=6.5×3mm 125 ♀ juv bursa=6×7.5mm	White-rump		V. heavy fat 43.9g body molt	
	ov=9×4.5 126 ♀ ad ov. developing	White-rump		heavy fat SK=1/2 40.9g body molt	
	ov=7×5mm very involuted, bursa may be present 127 ♀ad? ov. developing	White-rump		heavy fat SK=1/2 34g body molt	
	ov=7×4 128 ♀ad	White-rump		heavy fat SK=7/8 body molt 41.7g	
	T=2×1.5mm 129 ♂ juv bursa=7×5.5mm	White-rump		V. heavy fat SK=2/3 38.0g body molt	

35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 April	ov=12×7 130 ♀	Oreophilus ruficollis		body molt light fat 150.5g	
15 April	ov=8.9×5mm largest=0.8mm 131 ♀ ova differentiating	White-rump	flocking	body molt SK=2/3 43. ext. h. fat	
	T=3.7×2mm 132 ♂ juv bursa=3.8×3.2mm	White-rump	flocking	SK=1/2 ext. h. fat 55.8	
	T=3.1×2mm 133 ♂	White-rump	flocking	SK=1/2 ext. h. fat 58.1g	
	134 ♀ ov=8.5×4mm	Zonibyx modestus		75.5g fat	
23 April	ov=9.0×4.8mm 135 ♀	Zonibyx modestus		67.3g medium	

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35 Km S. of Juancho by road Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

28 April	136 ♀ ov=6.5×3.9cm	White rump	USF+WS band # 74-171014 recovery reported	ext. h. fat	61g sk= 3/4
	137 ♀ ov=7.5×4mm	White rump	poss. bursa extinct completely involuted ov. differentiating lgst= 1mm	ext. h. fat	57g sk= 1/2
	138 ♀ ov=8.5×3.5	White-rump	ov. diff. lgst= 1.2mm	ext h. fat	59g sk= 4/3

1 Km W of Argentina by road, Pvcia de Santiago del Estero, Argentina

11 August	139 ♀ ad ov=6×3.5	Bairds	ov diff. lgst= 1mm	little fat	53g sk= 3/4
	140 ♀ ad ov=6.9×3.6mm	Bairds	ov diff. lgst= 1mm	mod fat body molt	36.1g sk= 1/2

35 Km S. of Juancho by road Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia. de Bs Aires, Argentina

15 March	141 t=4×1.5	bat skelcton			
23 August	142 ♂ ad ov=6×2.9mm	White-rump		mod fat	35.8g
	143 ♀ ad t=2.5×1mm	baird's	ov. not differentiated	excessive fat body molt	49.9 g
	144 ♂ ad t=3.8×1.5mm	white-rump		mod fat body molt	38.2g
	145 ♂ ad t=9×5.9mm	Pectoral		mod fat	68.2g
	146 ♂ t=3×1.9mm	Zonibyx modestus		fat	77g
27 August	147 ♂ ad	White-rump	Flock ← together	mod fat	40.0g
	148 ♀ ad ov=6.8×2.5mm	White-rump	ov. differentiated, lgst= 1mm flock	mod fat	45.0
31 August	149 ♀ ad ov=8×3mm	Baird's		very fat	44.2g
	150	Pectoral		little fat body molt	70.0g
2 September	151 ♂ t=7×3mm	Oreopholus ruficollis		mod fat body molt	
	152 ♂ t=9.8×5mm	Oreopholus ruficollis		body molt very fat	179. g
7 September	153 ♀ ov=5.2×3mm	[illegible]		mod fat	13.6g
	154 ♂ t=3.2 x1.2 mm	[illegible]		little fat body molt	13.2g
	155 ♂ t=13×5.5mm	Gallinago		fat	139g
8 September	156 ♀ ad ov=9.1×3.8mm	Calidris canutus	ov. different lgst=1mm	body molt fat	131g
11 September	157 ♀ ad ov=5.6×3.5mm	White-rump	flock together	fat	43.5g
	158 ♂ ad t=3.5×1	White-rump	Flock	mod fat body molt	40.2
	159 ♂ t=8.5×3.1mm	Thinocorus rumicivorus		body molt little fat	61.6
17 September	160 ♂ ad + almost recognizable, destroyed by shot	buff[illegible] - rumped		body molt mod fat	60.0

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Catalogue

Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

19 September	161 ♂	t=3x2mm	Charadrius [redacted]			little fat 31.9g body molt
	162 ♂ ad	t=3.5x2mm	buff-breasted sandpiper	} together		65g mod fat body molt
	163 ♂ ad	c=3.9x1.1mm	buff-breasted		62.0	fat body molt
	164 ♂ ad	t= 3.1 x 1.5 mm	buff-breasted		65.6g	mod fat body molt
27 September	165 ♂ ad	T= 4.5x2mm	buff breasted	} together	stomach taken 66.8g	fat body molt
	166 ♂ ad	C= 2.9x2.5mm	buff breasted		stomach 64.0g	mod fat body molt
1 October	167 ♂ ad	T=3.9x2mm	golden plover			mod fat 140g body molt
4 October	168		Seretophrys inornatus [redacted]			181g
20 October	169 ♂ ad	T= [redacted] 3x2mm	Buff breasted sandpiper	territorial		fat 170.0g body molt
	170 ♂ ad	t= 4.8x2mm	golden			145g fat
4 November	171 ♀ ad	7.1x4.5mm	white-rump	territorial		40.1g mod fat
13 November	172 ♂ ad	C= 2.9x2.5mm	buff-breasted sandpiper	non ter }		65.2g mod fat molt
	173 ♀ ad	OV = 7.1 x 3.2 mm	buff breasted sandpiper	non ter } together		50.1g mod fat body molt
	174 ♀ juv	OV= 6.0 x 3.8mm	white-rump	territorial	bursa = 8.5x2.2 mm 40.1	little fat molt
	175 ♂ ad !!	t= 3.1 x [redacted] ← damaged	white-rump	territorial	42.0g	fat molt
16 November	176 ♀ ad	OV=6.5 x 3.1mm	buff breasted	territorial	54.2g	fat molt
21 November	177 ♂ ad	t= 3.5 x 1.5 mm	buff-breasted	territorial	66.1g	fat molt
27 November	178 ♂ juv	t= 2.1 x 1.0 mm bursa= 8.5x5mm	white-rump	terr.	♀ 37.1g	mod fat molt
	179 ♂ ad	t= 3.0 x 1.0 mm	white rump		40.0 g	mod fat molt
	180 [redacted]		white rump	} together terr. alcoholic	43.8g	mod fat molt
	181 ♀ ad	OV= 8.5x4mm	white rump	terr. 41.5g		mod fat molt
	182		buff-breasted	alcoholic 52.4g		
	183 ♂ ad	t=4.0 x 1.7mm	buff breasted	67.5g		fat molt

Myers, J. P.

1973

Paraguay

Argentina

James P Myers
1973

Journal

17 Km E Luque Dept Central Paraguay

20 July — Drove along road heading east from Asuncion w/ Phil + Roger stopped by river to collect birds, shot 3: 2 Synallaxis spixi and 1 Schoeniophylax phryganophila [I put up one of spixi and also phyr.] We were there from 8:30 am until ~11 am. Temp - 14°C, drizzle, slight wind. in addition saw: ~2 theca, 4 white flying herons, 1 white necked heron, 1 great black hawk, many black vultures, crested caracaras, jacanas, g.b. anis, 1 white headed marsh tyrant, Kiskadee (many), vermillion flycatcher, tropical gnatcatcher, masked gnatcatcher, red crested cardinals, picui groundoves, common egret

21 July — Ita Enramada Dept. Central Paraguay

walked to North beach of Paraguay river ~50 yards SE from Ferry terminal. there is a wide mud beach extending along the river with some short vegetation covering. Kiskadee flycatchers were perched on the mud foraging off the surface. Observed Asc some other tyrant - similar to a ~~vermilion crowned flycatcher~~ Machetornis rixosus least I had no binos & did not ID. They are ~~vermilion crowned flycatchers~~ there were no sandpipers visible, but at a proper time of year it should be productive. Stayed for only ~15 minutes and then returned home. Temp ~ below 15°C, slight wind, heavy overcast.

22 July — 1 Km South of Tobati, Dept. Central, Paraguay

hiked w/ Phil, Lora, & Maggie to vampire bat cave ~0.5 km W of road. went into cave; taped on #1a some of vampire wing beat and a few series of chatter. Phil said that there were no other species present. then spent rest of mid afternoon making feeble attempts to collect birds. Temp outside cave was 13°C. Little wind, heavy overcast. the terrain that we covered was an old lava

J. P. Myers
1973

Journal

1 Km south of Tobati, Dept Central, Paraguay

22 July cont'd flow, covered in places with heavy scrub including trees up to 15'-20' in ~~height~~ height. Also much wild pineapple. Phil shot a grassland sparrow (Myospiza humeralis) which he prepared, and also a house wren, which I did up (05). Both birds were in the rockier parts of the lava, although not taken together nor at the same place. Although we went by very little habitat that would appear to be suitable for sandpipers, I looked, and saw none.

17 Km E of Luque, Dept. Central Paraguay

23 July @ Returned to site of 20 July ~~moved~~ in afternoon with Phil in order to collect birds via netting and gun. Heavy overcast, temps in range of 14°-15°. No rain. Stayed until dark after beginning ~3pm. Netted one cardinal, 2 creamy ~~bucked~~ bellied thrush [(collected 1), -cat. 06], 1 tropical gnatcatcher [(?) - cat 07], shot 1 lesser seedfinch (Phil prepared), 1 chicli spinetail (Phil prepared) and 1 Buff-throated saltator (not prepared). Saw but did not collect (list not inclusive): a cinamou, chotoy spinetail, 2 plush-crested jay (these birds were actually ~5 km down road in a denser and higher forest). ~~Saw~~ Saw 2 fox ~~sp~~ in road at dusk

~~Asuncion~~ Trans Chaco Highway, Asuncion - Km 275

25 July Entered the Chaco w/ Phil, Lora + Kid; drove to Rincon Charrua at Km 275 during morning and until mid-afternoon. Morning began overcast, ~~got~~ but without rain. Began to rain at Paraguay River Ferry. Did so intermittently (and lightly) for 1st 50 or so km. Stayed overcast whole trip. No ~~competent~~ attempt was made to identify birds, so Phil knew most of the conspicuous ones and we had to reach Km 275 before it began to rain steadily. However, we did stop to try and identify 2 birds, one a probable rufescent tiger heron, and the other a buteo upon which we ~~left~~ were left undecided. Some of the conspicuous and common birds seen while driving were Jabiru and Maguari Storks, snail Kites, several species of parrot +

Trans chaco highway, Asuncion → Km 275, Paraguay

July 25 cont'd parakeet (esp. monk parakeet), giant wood rail, lap-wing, 3 sp. dove, hornero, roadside hawk, black-necked hawk, sparrow hawk, etc. I will make a more detailed list on the return trip next week.

275 Km NW via Hayes by road, Dept. Pres. Hayes, Paraguay

July 25 We arrived at the estancia Rincon Charrua in mid-afternoon. It is located several Km north of the trans chaco highway, with the ranch house located several hundred yards east of a small river. Forest is low, dry scrub, typical for this part of Chaco. About 4pm Phil, Alvaringo (caretaker) and I went hunting for ducks. Walked SW to river, where we immediately saw 50 or so teal, ~10 muscovy ducks, many southern screamers, limpkins, plumbeous and buff breasted ibis, etc. Also found a maguari stork nest (occupied, ~10' up in air on isolated tree on W side of river, tree isolated from forest by swamp.) Shot no ducks (not for lack of opportunity). A more thorough list of birds here will (be produced during the next few days. The weather began to clear in the evening, with clouds moving off to the north. temperature during the night went down to below 4°C

July 26 I arose before dawn and walked to the river approximately ½ Km to SW from ranchhouse. It was cold - 4°C, but clear except for a line of clouds extending ~10° above horizon along its entire length. I went to sit and watch the southern screamers which were in a flock on the swamp near the site where several fences come together and cross. There were 112 screamers in that flock. Also a jabiru stork nearby, and several maguari storks. I stayed in that vicinity through the morning to take photographs. At least 10 Jacana's along a 30 yd² stretch of the river swamp.

J. P Myers
1973

Km 275 W of Via Hayes by road, Dept Pres Hayes, Paraguay

July 27 Again a cold morning - ~ 5°C. Clear, only a thin line of clouds ~~es~~ covering extending along horizon. I walked out to the same area as July 26 to photograph but met with little success. After lunch I went out at 1:30 to collect. Shot 1 Vermilion-crowned flycatcher (♂) along the edge of the swamp. From the house went SE to ~~[illegible]~~ along telephone wire until it hit swamp. The wire extends through ~~as forest~~ monte until it hit the swamp. The monte is a low (15-20') scrub ~~of [illegible]~~ with only a few species of tree, dominated by what Phil tells me is a Prosopis (legume) the trees are in general ~~not~~ not close together - 2 ft (rarely) - up to 20 ft with the crowns touching. Ground cover is a wild pineapple or nothing. Often the ground beneath the trees is bare. This may result from grazing (cattle), which we learned was overdone several years ago and continues on a lighter scale now. What % of the land that is not monte is palm swamp - stands of a palm, trees fairly dispersed with mud, standing clear water, or standing water with a solid cover of some plant (identity unknown) between them. The presence of cattle is very clear, as it is difficult to find a stretch of mud which is not densely marked with cattle hoof prints. Prints of other animals - small cats, ~~foxes~~ pampas foxes, sheep, deer, raccoon, bird, are also abundant. In the palm swamp the most easily detected animals (i.e. abundant) (apart from cattle) are vermillion crowned flycatchers, jacanas, Brazilian cardinals, southern screamers, limpkin, plumbeous ~~ibis~~ ibis, monk parakeets, ~~and~~ southern lapwings. This afternoon along the south side of said swamp I ~~saw~~ watched a small fox for a few minutes moving along between me and a flock of (8-10) limpkins. While sitting in the same spot just after the fox left a

JP Myers
1973

July 27 cont'd

Km 275 W of Via Hayes, by road Dept Pres. Hayes, Paraguay (Chaco)

~~flocks~~ mixed feeding flock of small birds passed through. It had v-crowned flycatchers, a rufous-sided towhee sized finch, ~~ill~~, and red crested cardinals (the dominant species numerically of this flock. They stayed on the ground and low in the shrubs around me. The flock was broken up by ~~ass~~ the appearance of a sharp shinned hawk. The cardinals scattered fast (no ~~voice~~ obvious calls were made) the hawk landed ~15' in front of me, stayed for about five minutes, and then left. I soon followed, heading back around the S side of the swamp. Second within 100 yards I picked up another mixed flock, this composed of a different set of birds: epaulet orioles, v-crowned flycatchers, a small plain tyrant (almost Knipet size), and a few (perhaps two) narrow ~~heavy~~ billed woodcreepers. I collected on of these dendrocolaptids and also an oriole. I then continued on toward the north along the east side of the swamp, and encountered another mixed flock similar to one I had seen (but not described) previously: It was compsd of 2 species of tyrant: one of a species like the ash-throated of the U.S., and the other as many (perhaps as many as 10) of a smaller, duskier bird which I had seen flocking previously. I collected one of these also (catalog #). I forgot to mention previously that earlier in the day I had seen a crimson-headed woodpecker drilling holes in Prosopes. I watched for ~15 minutes, and only once did it land on a palm; that out of five trees which it visited in the time I watched, and furthermore, that the palm was used not as a feeding place but in alarm. Chachalacas were also common; I saw at least 6 in

JP Myers
1973

July 27 cont'd

275 Km W of Via Hayes by road, Dept. Pres. Hayes, Paraguay

five hours out (and in the process missed an infuriatingly easy shot at one. On the way back I saw a tamandúa — a small anteater - as it ~~was~~ lumbered across an open clearing by some monte. As I approached it it reared on its hind limbs, balanced with the tail, and spread its fore limbs wide. I backed off, it turned, and went up a nearby tree. On the closer to the house I was again reminded of the interesting situation here with respect to mocking birds: there are two very similar ("very") species both occurring most visibly in the scrub along the edges of the monte; I believe the species are M. saturninus and M. triurus and will collect of each in order to make sure. Finally, I must comment on the remarkable density achieved here by vermilion crowned (Machetornis rixosus) flycatchers — they are everywhere except the center of the monte; the occur alone, in groups feeding in Jacana habitat, on the backs of horses + cattle or at their feet, with sheep, and with the large wading birds. As I have noticed ~~p~~ noted previously, they are also members of some of the mixed feeding flocks. For example, in one meadow grazed by cattle (with a bull still present) - short grass with a few isolated shrubs, surrounded on one side by palm, another by monte, ~~and~~ and 2 others by cut monte, with one small almost dried puddle ~~at~~ in a corner — there were over 40 v-c. flycatchers, along with up to 10 cardinals, 2 buff necked ibis, 2 lapwings, an vermilion flycatcher, one white monjita, 2 unidentified furnariids (?), (rusty) crown with pronounced crests. And the meadow was an equilateral triangle not more than 50 yds/side, the density and diversity of insectivores - esp. tyrannids

Journal

275 Km W of Via Hayes, by road, Dept Pres Hayes Paraguay

July 27 (cont'd) is remarkable. What might this have to do with calidridines? especially with insectivorous calcludeine young (were they to breed here). [It should be observed that because of low temperatures (down to 4°C at night, up to 20° in day) insect abundance is (according to Phil) much lower now than usual. there are few mosquitos, in contrast to the normal situation. No clouds till afternoon, then only small puffy cumulus, cleared at night. Phil and I went out nite-lighting with head lamps - spotted two foxes, two anteaters (same species as I had seen earlier in the day). We walked along the fence heading east from the building complex, then after about 1 Km followed another fence north and NW for a short (less than 1/2 Km) distance. 2 species of caprimulgiform, neither collected nor identified. one night hawk like with wing spots and white on tail; the other also gregarious, the other solitary and sans the conspicuous white marking.

July 28 Phil and I walked (beginning at 6:30 - clear, 5°C) toward NE to dawn and then perhaps one or two Km beyond, continuing to NE. Most of trail was through monte - Prosopus scrub; we were looking for deer and/or peccary to eat. Saw one deer on the way there, but it stayed too far away for a shot. Did get two of the many chachalacas seen +/or heard. We did very little bird watching. Of interest however was a mixed flock of oriole - epaulet, golden-winged caciques and troupial that we encountered along the trail on the edge of the monte - palm swamp ecotone. The epaulets were both on the ground and in the base of the palm leaves perhaps 15' up. the other two species were in the palm center and leaves, with the

275 Km W of Via Hayes by road, Dept. Pres. Hayes, Paraguay

July 28 cont'd

tropical definitely more peripheral than the golden-winged. Although I remember no other species being present within that particular flock, there could have been, as we carried not; however at a second flock with similar species seen a little later there were definitely others present although I did not specifically note any. We headed NW~~E~~ until reaching a large clearing running NW–SE (90° to our line of travel) and then took it to the NW. the original clearing was actually very dark but low (10'-15') brush in a dampness. To the ~~NE~~ NW it opened into a very large (0.5 Km^2) meadow, bordered by palm swamp, monte, and swamp caused by the dam. There was also open water at the far NW side of the meadow. Upon it were up to 10 maguari stork, an unknown number of southern screamer, plumbeous ibis, buff-necked ibis, tero-tero, uncountable numbers of vermillion (Machetornis) crowned flycatchers and cardinals, some tiskadee flycatchers and others. ~~Up~~ ~~there~~ heard. Also overhead flew a large flight - perhaps 75 - muscovy duck. We walked along the ~~E~~SW side of the meadow and then headed back to the cabins upon reaching the dam. The forest on this side of the meadow was dense, high (30-40') and green; not the typical monte. Picazuro pigeon roosts in the higher trees of the forest (and in all of the surrounding monte. We shot several of these to augment the charata (chachalaca) as well as a few white tipped doves. Also saw heard of white-lipped peccary their breasts were delicious, although miniscule. ~~Had~~ the afternoon of the 28th we went to a nearby retiro for the Rincon Chavarria ranch (Retiro Loma Thorn) for Phil's bat work. At the gate home to the main ranch (Km 275) we were offered a red-legged seriema for sale, and told that it had been caught in the nearby monte.

SP Myers
1973

Journal

July 29

Trans-Chaco Highway between Km 275 and Km 420; Dept's Pres Hayes and Dept Boqueron, Paraguay.

We left the Rincon Charria at 9AM; clear sky, 5°C, approx at dawn. A truck had gone through a bridge several Km's to NW and delayed us for a short while. Arrived at experimented station (Km 295) around 10:30 am ~~and~~ visited with friends of Phil. Left about noon, and drove through to Km 420. Weather remained good the whole way, reaching 20°C. I recorded flock size of most parakeets seen along road. Saw 2 laughing falcon, one crimson headed woodpecker. Reached 420 in evening, set up nets and camp. Shot several guinea pigs. there were many small flocks of crested horneros foraging in the road before and during dusk. Shot one to identify but did not prepare. During the evening (approx 7:30 pm) there were many Nocthis flying over a tajamar by the road at Km ~420. They were hitting the pond several times in one sweep, with hits separated by less than 20 cm. 2 or three bats ~~would~~ would hit the pond at almost simultaneous times, 2 going in one direction and the other in the opposite (the shape of the pond made only 2 approaches possible, both parallel to the road.) Phil said that he had never seen them so dense. Perched above the same pond was a screech owl - very small ears. quite rufous. Did not identify.

July 30

Km 420 Trans chaco W of Via Hayes, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

Heard several pygmy owls at dawn, saw none. Sky clear, little wind, temp ~10°. Just to the W of camp beyond the tajamar there was a small dirt road leading off to the north. It was used recently by ox cart. I followed this in ~300 m till I reached a still smaller road leading off to the W, which I took. through the scrub I saw a great rufous woodcreeper. Also 2 jays (perhaps plush-crested) and a narrow-billed woodcreeper. they were close, but not obviously moving together.

JP Myers
1973

Journal

420 Km W of Via Hayes by road, Dept. Boqueron, Paraguay

July 30 cont'd

Small downy sized woodpeckers (of ladder back style) were in cactus - the cactus - a cylindropuntia according Phil - is common here, growing to 20' and in places quite close together. The scrub here is continuous (as opposed to at Charua where it was interspersed with palm swamp) and much thicker. More succulents and many more spined species of plant. It is very difficult to move through without machete or previously made trail. The wild pineapple is less dense where it occurs. Most of the trees are lower, but widely dispersed amongst the dominant scrub are large (30-40') trees which may be Palo Santo. Crested hornero are common and quite visible along the trans-chaco. Also there are 2 species of saltator. One - probably a buff throated saltator.

Trans-chaco highway 420 Km W - 475 Km W, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay.

Drove from mid morning through to early afternoon. Passed through F. Fadelfia and stopped there for supplies. Laughing falcon few Km E of F. Fadelfia. Again, I recorded monk parakeet flock size. Temp rose to 31°C. clear, strong wind picked up out of W.

@ 475 Km W of Via Hayes by road, Dept. Boqueron Paraguay

Chose campsite by road. no water but there are dried tajamares nearby. Some mosquitos, many flies and stingless bees. Clouding up. Saw a crimson headed woodpecker working over one of the large trees (35') nearby. The fount here is very similar to that at 420 Km, except for the increased diversity of cactus and spined plants. Some of them are really quite vicious. There is one common one which spreads across the ground in large patches: one by camp is 8' x 4' but less than 4" high. Leaves are oblong 5cm long, 1cm across and flat. Spines

Journal

July 30 cont'd

474 Km W of Villa Hayes, by road, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

grow from buds - 3-4/bud with over 20 buds/leaf. spines are of variable length, some up to 3cm; the spines are sturdy enough to stick to leather boots, and resist removal. The shrubbery is equally armed: Here the cylindropuntia is ~~more cons~~ closer together than they it was at 420. At least four species of parrot, 2 large (one long tailed) and 2 small. Rufous and crested hornero; the species of tyrant that I observed flocking in Rincon Charrua (7-27) and collected - flocking here again but in smaller groups (2-3 birds); flocks of gnatcatcher, a small furnarid - perhaps a spinetail - in flocks, chachalaca. Phil and I went night lighting after dark but saw only one fox (~~sp~~) and a small armadillo which Phil had not seen and collected it. Stayed warm all night, cloudy

July 31

Dawn overcast, warm - in 70's or 80's F. 3 deer seen off on road. Chachalaca, crimson headed woodpecker. Parrots. Saw three deer by road. One pygmy owl, either ferruginous or least being mobbed by mixed flock of gnatcatchers. Heard at least three within earshot of camp site.

474 Km W of Villa Hayes & Asuncion, Dept's Boqueron, Pres. Hayes, & Central, Paraguay

Left camp at 10:30 with clouds becoming imminent. Arrived Filadelfia 11:45, ~~then~~ stayed to eat lunch and shop (stores ~~did not~~ were closed 11:30-2). Left Fila 2pm, drove to Rincon Charrua, arriving at dusk. Stayed there until 8 pm and then drove

August 1

through night until reaching Ferry at 4:15. 1st ferry at 5:30. Asuncion by 6:45.

1 Km S of Villeta on dock over Paraguay River, Dept central, Paraguay

Aug 24

~10 small shorebird flying N. seen for less than 3 seconds. Could be Pectorals. Searched but saw no more

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Aug 25

17 Km E Luque by road Dept Central Paraguay

went out from house with Lois and mother at 6 AM (dawn around 6:30) for light bird watching. Dawn clear. Pre dawn sky was clear (stars visible from house) but very strong wind (min of 25 mph) out of south. Temp at 8:20 = 63°F. By 6 PM sky was overcast, with heavy cloud cover moving fast. Major event of trip was sighting of first ~~Pect~~ confirmed sandpipers — 30 probable - see Pectorals Aug 26 in a wet grassy field just past the last bridge (headed east) over the river, a few hundred yards before the road gate. The field is briefly described under Pectoral entry. My suspicion that the shorebirds seen yesterday by Villa were Pectorals is reinforced. They were definitely sandpipers of the right size. Today also saw 6 rhea a few km beyond the sandpipers ~~sp~~ site in a bunch not far from the road. 2 sp. of parrot, including 2 flocks of monk parakeet which I recorded. Two-three, a Snipe flighting the wind, diving, and making some typical Snipe-like sounds, only 3 jacana (2 adult + 1 ~~juv~~ juvenile) and other wise typical fare for this road, except somewhat impoverished, perhaps because of the gusty wind. The birds were much more active at 9:30 than at 6:30.

Aug 26

Out at dawn w/Lois. Returned to ~~the~~ field 17 km east of Luque. 54°, windy, but no where near as strong as yesterday. high Overcast, wind out of SSE. Got to site at 7:15. Shorebirds are there flock of 20 ~~of~~ white-rumped ibis. Largest assemblage of shorebirds (SB) flying at a given time was ~50. There is one flock of ~20

JP Myers
1973

Journal

17 Km E of Luque, by road, Dept Central, Paraguay

July 26 cont'd birds which appears to be fairly coherent in its movements. There are a few smaller groups which joined with the large one to form that ~50 bird flock. Most birds are of the same size + in flight look like Pectorals. At no time did they approach closer than 100 yds though, so through bino's, given my as yet unfamiliar eye for calidridines, they may or may not be what I think they are. When they land most disappear into the grass, which is like that of yesterday. With the scope I can occasionally pick one out. Once walked within 2" of a southern lapwing (in front of it) and it was considerably smaller than the S.L. therefore it was not a yellowlegs. But a few times some of the birds flashed all white tails (not when flying). this is confusing, + therefore positive ID awaits a closer approach + confirmation. Kiskadee flycatcher was foraging mainly in very similar (if not identical) habitat. We drove on to San Bernardino (less than 10 Km) and found no other SB, nor any similar habitat. Did watch a spectacled tyrant forage for a while.

Aug 29 Trans Chaco highway Km 0-300 Dept Pres Hayes Paraguay

left Asuncion at 6am with Phil + crew and Lois, caught Pigvete-cue ferry at 8am. temp 58°F at 6am. Sky 100% clear, slight breeze from south. Took data on work parakeet flocks throughout trip. Watched along road for shorebirds but saw none. Fewer storks than last time (no jabiru) ~~nothing exceptional (but then!~~ We did not dally very long for birdwatching. Arrived at the retiro of Eaton's ranch at Km 300 where Wetzel's crew et. al are staying (approx 1 Km north of Trans Chaco highway) at 1530pm. Weather remained beautiful for the whole trip.

Km 300 W of Villa Hayes at Retiro on Eaton's Ranch, 1 Km NE of trans Chaco highway near rio Verde river, Dept Pres Hayes, Paraguay

Just after arriving a flock of 16 shorebirds flew south past

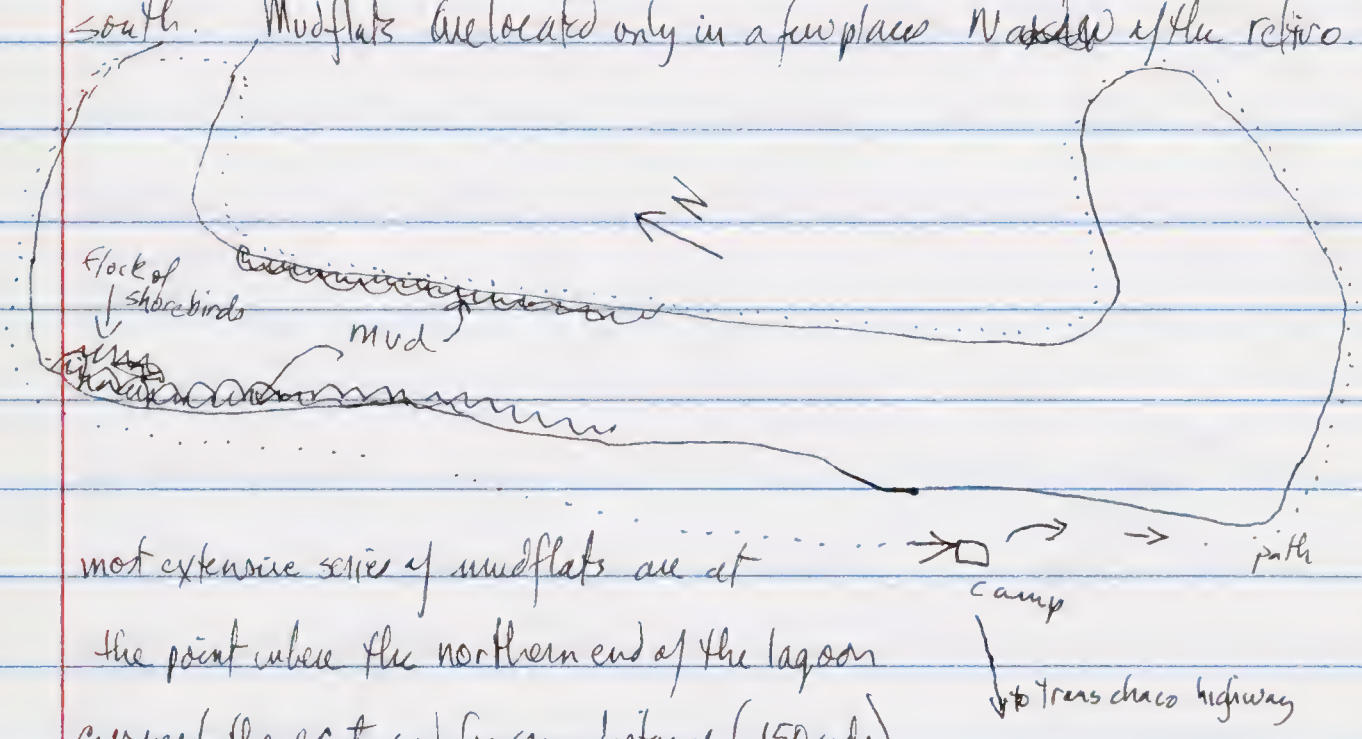
JP Myers
1973

Journal

Km 300 W of Villa Hayes at Retiro on Eaton's Ranch 1 km NE of Trans-chaco highway, Dept. Pres. Hayes, Paraguay

Aug 29 cont'd

camp (3:45 pm). While I was at the car getting equipment to go out, Phil said that he saw another (or the same) flock flying in the opposite direction, and others to the north near the lagoon. He said they were not yellowlegs. Lois and I went out: we followed the ~~SW~~ SW side of the lagoon to the S going all the way around (several hundred meters to the end of the lagoon from the camp), then back up the other side until it curves off to the east. At a point less than 100 m past the place where the lagoon curves east, we found a crossing, and worked back to the camp along the W shore, headed south. Mudflats are located only in a few places N ~~of~~ of the retiro. The



most extensive series of mudflats are at the point where the northern end of the lagoon curves to the east, and for some distance (150 yds) to the S from that end. Both sides (E+W) have mud. It is here that we found the shorebirds landed. I could not get a very good look at them, but enough to see that there were at least 3 species (G. yellowlegs + 2 small), and that I would need the scope. By this time clouds were coming out of the west, + the sun was setting. Weird light. the birds were to spooky to be collected. Also seen in the marsh (+ relevant to shorebirds): many jacana, several pairs of teru-teru, kiskadees, vermillion-crowned flycatchers. Also louisiana heron, giant wood rail, guira cuckoo, monk parakeets, whistling heron, maguari stork, vermilion flycatcher, white-necked heron, smooth billed ani, etc. Will make a detailed survey.

Journal

At northend of lagoon, near Retiro on Eaton's Ranch, 1 Km NE of trans chaco highway, 300 Km W of Villa Hayes, Dept Pres Hayes, Paraguay

Aug 30 See map of location, Aug 29. Lois and I left camp at ~~0600~~ 6:25 Am and walked to northend of lagoon. 100% overcast, slight S wind, temp = 58°F. Shorebird there again. This time I came with scope (but again w/o Peterson.) When we ~~arrived~~ left at 6:25 there were 5 SB flying along east side of lagoon 6:35 at N end 6 Yleg + 6 smaller sp. 6:45 6 more small sandpipers came in. Some of the little sp's are definitely white-rumped (C. fuscicollis) 4 ooray. 2 on beach in front at 6:45. Soon after I found a Pectoral feeding with 3 Yleg. on NW end. One more C. fusci. appeared just when the others left. ~~0600~~ 7:25 stilt sandpiper (Micropalama himantopus) came in w/ Yleg. (4 of them) We tried to shoot some of the birds but were too far w/ #10+ duck shot. Went back to camp at 7:30 after having chased everything away. Two adult teal + 11 ducklings in lagoon.

Trail to Rio Verde from Retiro on Eaton's ranch, 1 Km NE of trans Chaco highway, 300 Km W of Villa Hayes, Dept Pres Hayes, Paraguay

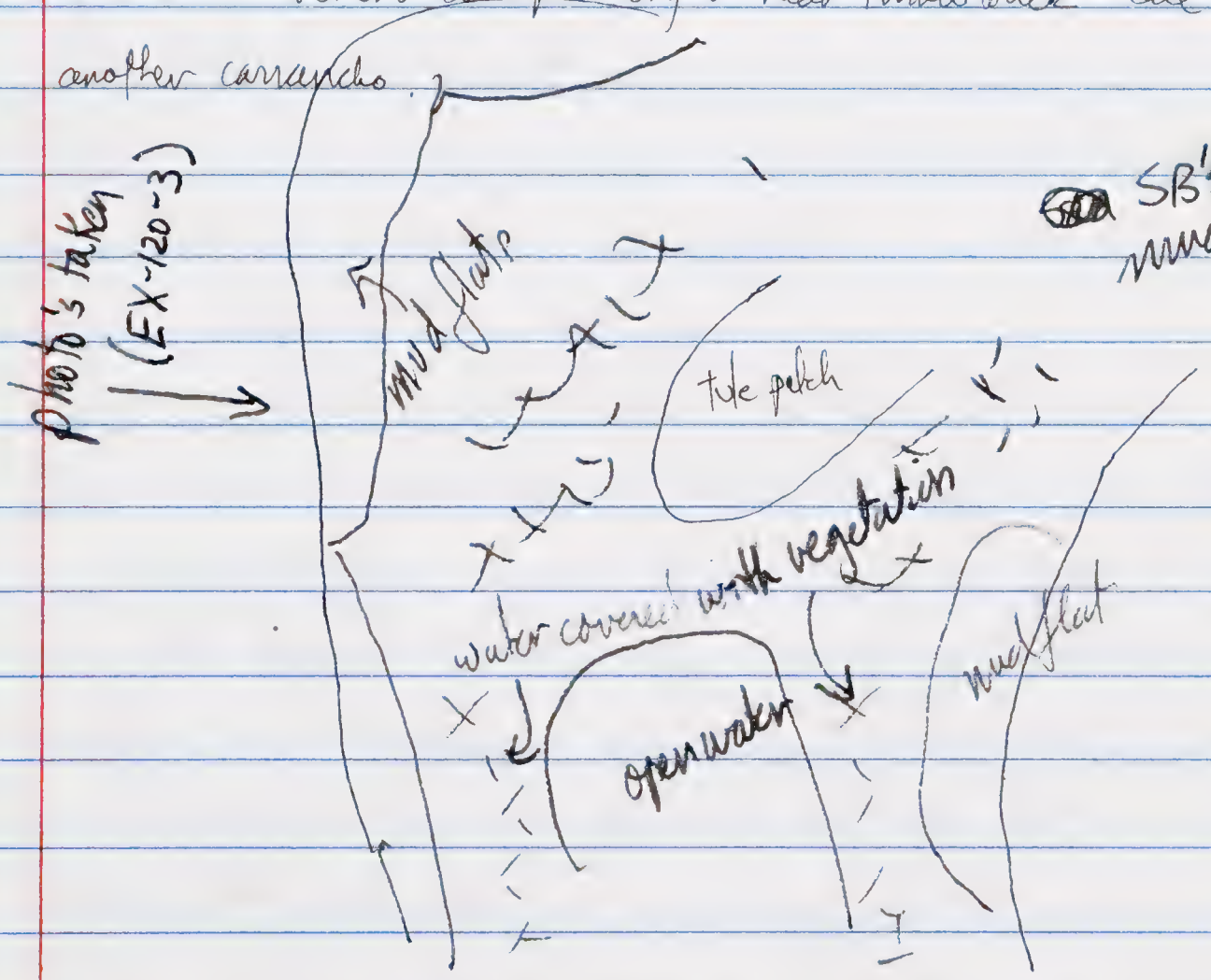
At 0900 Phil, Lora, Lois, Filipe-i + I walked to river from camp. River is such only intermittently, now being a series of unconnected salt ~~pools~~ pods, bordered by crusted salt, mud, salicornyx (or the local substitute) and running through very thick ~~Prosopus~~ Prosopus scrub. A herd of 25-30 collared peccaries crossed the river just as we arrived. ~~Other~~ Slight wind, overcast. After chasing the peccaries unsuccessfully we headed S along river. Soon saw a solitary sandpiper (T. solitaria). chased it for 1/2 mile but could not collect. No other sandpipers seen in river. 1 Kiskadee foraging along banks. 2 tree ducks. incredible number of mammal tracks: marsh lion, tapir, capybara, crab-eating raccoon, small cat, fox, deer, peccary, grison. Many were fresh. the water contains a great deal of swimming invertebrate life, and I am surprised that there were no other ~~birds~~ birds using it. We walked back along the same route used in coming. Temperature getting up. cloud cover still complete, wind also rising from South.

JPMyers
1973

Journal

North end of lagoon by near retiro at Eatons ranch 1 Km WE of trans chaco road, 300 Km NW of Villa Hayes, Dept Pres Hayes, Paraguay

Aug 30 contd Went to 1:30pm North end w/ Phil + Lois carrying poles for 3 nets. Saw 1 solitary sandpiper at the s end of the mud flats (see map 8/29). Phil shot it w/ 22. Cont'd to site where large number of SB had been seen. They were still there: 1 Microphalma himantopus, ♂ 6 Y legs, 1 pectoral, 1 unknown that looks as light as a sanderling, almost. Tried to get the latter, but Phil shot a ♂ Y legs instead. too much wind (running out of SE right up the lagoon) to put up nets. Lois + I stayed around until 3:30 but the birds never returned after being shot at. Sky starting to clear. There was a carrancho in a tree behind camp doing a head-throw back + call display to another carrancho.



Aug 31 6:15 Am 48°, cloud cover ≤10% no wind: Lois + I walking to NE mud flat along E horizon a solid line 10 degrees above horizon. teal IIII tero IIII Louisiana heron 1 jacana 8 IIII IIII IIII southern screamer II giant wood rail II white-necked heron 1 pigeon 1 cardinal 20

arrived for cal 6:30 Am no shorebirds present. At 6:31 8 SB flew by. 0640 3 peeps headed due south. 0644 1st monk parakeets

JP Myers
1973

Journal

North end of lagoon near retiro at Estore Ranch 1 Km N of trans-chaco road, 300 Km NW Villa Hayes, Dept Pres. Hayes, Paraguay

Aug 31 cont'd

8 peeps 0844 did not stop going south. At about this time a flock of cardinals (20) and vermilion crowned (5) flycatchers started feeding on the mud, on the drier vegetation, and some on plants in the water. The flock was fairly coherent, spread over 20' x 10' of shore. 0650 4 Y/legs alighted but we were putting up nets + they moved on south. 0740 – 3 Y/legs headed south. 0755 a large harrier flew low over the marsh. Jacanas scattered in front of it, calling loudly. the tern flew up to meet it. a long-winged harrier. 8:10 robin - like thrush. Vermilion flycatcher on perch since 07:30. I set up 2 nets at 0700 extending out across mud flats and sat in nearby scrub watching until 0830. No SB's showed any sign of landing. At 0830 I rolled the nets, shook a few of coins away, and went back to the house. Wind picking up. 65°F by 0815.
4 Y/legs flew by just as I was leaving.

trans chaco Road Km 300 - 455 NW of Villa Hayes, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

Sept 1

left @ retiro at Estore ranch at 0800, driving NW along Trans chaco w/ Phil et al + Lois. temp 42°F at 0600. I had checked the NW end of the lagoon at the retiro before leaving and there again were no migrant SB's. Sky clear, no breeze. Saw solitary sandpiper at Km 320, another at ~340 and a third at 365. the last one we collected w/ #6 shot. All these birds were along the edges of the ponds which line the road. Every one that we saw was on a muddy area of one of the ponds there were very few birds when compared with the number of sites which looked appropriate, i.e. many mud flats were without these solitary sandpiper. A 4th SS was seen at about 380. No other species of SB seen, except local residents ie. teru + jacana.
2 seriema at 425, together

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Trans-chaco road, Km 455 - 540 NW of Villa Hayes, Dept. Boqueron
Paraguay

Sept 2 Spent part of the early morning walking along road w/ Lois near camp. The one patch of water (10' x 15', 4" deep, surrounded by mud and fairly obscured by trees) showed no sign of shorebirds. There was a swallow-tailed hummer there too. We followed a small, old jeep trail north from the road for approx 1 km. Vegetation was much more open than I expected, with several patches of grass (largest 400' diameter) along the way. Otherwise it was thorn scrub, ground cover often wild pineapple. Scrub height < 10', but occasional large trees (palo borracho, palo santo) thrown in. Walked until we came across a cultivated field, then returned. Saw very little in the way of birds, but I was concentrating on camera. We ~~left~~ then broke camp around 10 am and started west again, with the intention of reaching terminus Ochoa. Just east of Mariscal Estigarribia the terrain started having perceptible topographic variation, gently rolling w/ a few sharp breaks. Cactus becomes much more evident, perhaps because of the effect of human usage on more useful trees + plants. Absolutely no water by road until less than 5 km east of Mariscal, when all of a sudden there are a number of small pools by the road, + in Mariscal a good sized one. No shorebirds. West of Mariscal it ~~starts to dry~~ dried up again, although judging from the effort that has gone into building bridges on the road, and from very evident washes, it must be wet sometimes. Vegetation changing, becoming more xeric, looks as if the thorn scrub may begin to open up

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Trans chaco road Km 455-540 NW of Villa Hayes, Dept. Boqueron, Paraguay

Sept 2 cont'd

However we were told by Wayne Lovett of Wetzel's expedition that around terminte Ochoa the forest is very thick and quite high. Unfortunately, we were never able to verify this, as the baby got sick and we had to turn back circa Km 540. Returned to Km 465 for night, arriving at dusk. We saw 7 Patagonian hares on trip back, 4 west of Mariscal (2 pairs) and 3 at Km 465. tried unsuccessfully to collect. No shorebirds seen all day. One jabiru at Km 540 in swamp

trans chaco road Km 465 - 300 NW of Villa Hayes, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

Sept 3

at dawn walked w/Lois along road and along a clearing by fence line to ~1 Km SE from camp. 1 screima perched in tree. A mixed flock of plush-crested jays, 2 icterids, 1 species + one dendrocolaptid. Much vocal activity by saltators, one every few hundred feet or less singing. It was a fairly warm night, morning clear + a light breeze.
Broke camp at 9 and drove to Filadelfia, then on toward Wetzel's crew's camp (the line camp at Km 300).
At pond where we had camped 7-29-73, ~1 pair Km 420 collected one greater yellowlegs. It was there w/ what may have been a solitary sandpiper, but I didn't get a good look. As on the way out, solitary's were fairly common in roadside ponds, never more than 1/pond. Phil cataloged the yleg. In the area around 365 Km there were a more extensive series of taja ponds + the number of solitaries increased. then we found a flock of 4 pectorals

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Trans-chaco road, Km 465 - 300 NW of Villa Hayes ~~by~~ Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

Sept 3 cont'd

at Km 365, ~~about~~ 1pm a few hundred meters from where I had collected a solitary on Sept 1. ~~they were not feeding,~~ ~~perched~~ ~~on~~ but just sitting ~~on~~ on the mud a few ~~feet~~ ~~meters~~ Got 2 w/ one shot. the area around 365 was a large (at least 1 km in diameter) open field with water visible only by road. Saw several small groups of other shorebirds flying nearby. Continued on to Km 320 where we turned in to Juan Zalazar to look at some ponds Wayne had said had shorebirds. Less than 1 km from trans chaco (south toward headquarters) the driveway goes ~~thru~~ between to ~~large~~ medium sized ponds, one bordered by mud + dried mud, water ~200' long + 100' deep with more water on the other side of the dried flat of mud (~200' across), the other ~~pond~~ bordered by vegetation. On the former pond + its mud, and spread over onto the pond ~~behind~~ (east) of it, ~~was~~ was a flock of 17 golden plovers + 2 or 3 small semi-palm-like plover (positive ID pending collection). Watched for a few minutes + ~~was~~ was about to collect when 2 buff-breasted sandpipers flew onto the edge of the pond. Collected both of them. ~~Returned to headquarters~~

Returned to base camp + spent evening stuffing birds (until 0130)

Evening was even warmer than the previous night, with insects remaining active throughout.

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Trans-chaco at Km 320 to Campo Flores, ~50 Km E of trans chaco by road, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

Sept 4 The manager at Juan Zalagar had asked Phil + Robert U. Conn. Martin, to visit Campo Flores, a "retiro for Juan Zalagar, where 15 cattle had died within the last few days of something looking like bovine rabies. We drove out in Phil's car + Wayne + Martin's jeep along a road which not too far from the t-chaco changed to a cowpath. Trip took 3 hrs one way. Very strong NNE wind. temp warm. No clouds but much dust in the air. Within the 1st ten Km the road goes by an amazing amount of water, including 2 ~~very~~ healthy sized lakes, one over 1 km across. Also numerous tajamares. Collected 1 Wilson's phalarope near the second lake (there were 3 there). Then the water disappears, although the amount of palm swamp (now dried) traversed suggests that at other times of the year it is quite wet. The only other places where there was any standing water seen after that were by intermediate retiros where a lot of bulldozing had been done to make tajamares + ~~dams~~ reservoirs. We had planned on spending the night at Campo Flores but the wind ~~was~~ indicated that rain was not too far off (as early as that night, probably within a day or two) so we turned back. At C Flores I saw a few peeps flying in the distance, one solitary, and 2 golden plovers on the ~~cow~~ air strip. That morning ~~we~~ we had stopped at the headquarters at Juan Zalagar, and exactly where I got the buffis yesterday I got 2 white-rumps today. At CF I spent most of my time preparing one, so had very little opportunity to explore the nearby large reservoir. On the way back (left CF at 330) we reached Cora-i, a large intermediate

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Trans-chaco at Km 320 to Campo Flores, ~30km E of Trans-chaco by road, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay.

Sept 4 cont'd

retiro 2 hours from the trans-chaco at 1630. Immediately I saw 2 buffies flying, + through bino's several more on a field of short grass, but the consensus was to push on. Another Wilson's phalarope at the same place the 1st one was collected at ~ 1730. Many chachalaca on the road. Got 2 deer, saw 2 more. Reached trans chaco at 1810, dusk. Returned to camp + put up birds.

Lagoon on Zalazar driveway, 0.5 km S of trans chaco, 320 km NW Villa Hayes, Dept Boqueron, Paraguay

Sept 5

At dawn Lois + I drove from base camp to lagoon where I'd gotten the buffies Sept 4 and the white-rumped Sept 5. Arrived 0645. 6 lesser Ylegs + 1 W. phalarope. 15 minutes later 1 white-rumped and 1 semipalmated plover showed. Then 2 more semi-palm plovers. The Ylegs + phalarope flew across the road to the other pond, + I landed at the edge (only 2 Ylegs) + then returned. Collected WR + one semipalmated plover. Returned to base camp and then packed to go home. Wind very strong from north. Hazy with dust but no clouds. Warm at dawn, in 60°F at least.

1 T. solitaria at entrance to driveway

BOTH THESE BIRDS ROTTED before skinning

See white rumped species account for better description of above habitat

Trans chaco road Km 300 - 0 W of Villa Hayes, Dept Pres.

Hayes, Paraguay

Started for home at 0930. Wind staying strong, clear. The amazing thing about the trip was that we had no sandpipers between Rio Verde + Villa Hayes, despite concerted and fairly consistant effort. After the experience Sept 3 west of Km 300 this is very surprising, especially in light of the much greater amount of water available east

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Trans-chaco highway Km 300 - 0 W of Villa Hayes, Dept. Pres Hayes, Paraguay

Sept 5 cont'd

Rio Verde (Km 300) as compared to that available west of Rio Verde. By far the greatest density (not all that great) was in the vicinity of Juan Zalayar, but there were birds to the west. (and according to Greg Schmidt, ornithologist in Wetzal's party last year, there are many birds at Fernciste Ochoa). The situation to the east is not expected. It may result from the ~~fo~~ possibility that the only water to the west is near the road, and results from human activity, whereas to the east water is abundant. This would result in birds being much more visible ~~to~~ in the west. But I would have expected at least some birds to the east, even ~~flying~~ if only flying. Certainly the ~~parakeets~~ taja mares are not that different in appearance or size. Perhaps the amount of emergent vegetation along the periphery of the eastern ones is greater. One difference is ~~that~~ in the surrounding habitat. Toward the west the monte is more prominent, while palm swamps dominate in the east. At Zalazar ~~area~~ the country was more open than elsewhere, neither p-swamps, nor monte for large areas around the water. That was also true at 365. ~~There~~ Then are 2 possibilities - 1) that the observed distribution pattern ~~is~~ however is not true, that birds are equally common in the east but ~~not~~ less visible because of habitat differences + the increased abundance of water away from the road. 2) that it is true, + that it results from some unknown reason(s). Among these may be 1) some habitat difference in the mudflats that I did not

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Transchaco highway Km 300 → 0 W of Villa Hayes by road, Dept. Pres Hayes, Paraguay

Sept 5 cont'd

detect, 2) a change in the amount of available mud flat, or 3) a result of migration pattern, with most of the bird shunting through West Paraguay.

N.A. Shorebirds seen on the trip (Aug 29 - Sept 5)

Lesser Ylegs (collected)
Greater Ylegs (collected)
Solitary Sandpiper (collected)
Golden plover
semi palm or ~~collared~~ Plover ~~(collected)~~ rotted
Buff breasted Sandpiper (collected)
White rumped Sandpiper (collected)
Pectoral Sandpiper (collected)
Stilt Sandpiper
Rare Wilson's Phalarope (collected)

A striking thing about all of these birds was the similarity of the places in which I saw them. There were differences - see species accounts - but my over-riding impression was that they were in the same places, or at least more so than I originally expected. This impression will probably change as my eye becomes more ~~attuned~~ attuned. But nonetheless, at one site ~~spot~~ I collected (or different days but within feet of the same places) BBS, WRS, P, and saw there LYL, WP, ~~and~~ bP, + SS. (this was at Juan Zalayar). If I return there, I would profit from remaining + observing rather than the hectic collection efforts which occupied my time so.

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Laguna las Flores Grandes
Rio Salado at Puente Romero, 27 km SW of San Miguel del Monte by road, Partido del Monte, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 15 Arrived at marsh just east of bridge (Puente Romero) around 1000 w/ Lois, M.A.E. Eumbell, + Jorge Rodriguez Muta there had been a heavy ~~frost~~ the previous night, ~~clear~~, this ~~with or~~ morning it was clear, wind from ~~NW~~ NE (15-20 mph) + cool - temp in 50°F's. We circled the marsh by car 1st to the north + then back around to the south, both times heading west from the bridge. On the north the Rio + the marsh are both salt. There is some tule marsh starting up in this, the spring, but much of it is a low dead grass, * open water, or fairly empty salt flats (upon ~~close~~ closer examination the flats were found to be sparsely covered by a grayed stubble. The water line has obviously been much higher, + most of the land that is within 30 yds of water is muddy enough to be slipping to walk or drive on, even tho there is a powder on the plants - dust because of the lack of recent rain. We went from the north side of the bridge out west along the N shore for ~2 Km until stopped by a fence. Only shorebirds were 2 flocks of Hudsonian godwits, and many BN Stilts (& my coose lapwings). This shore had no exposed mud to speak of, with the water running up to + into a thick grass ~8" high. We then returned + went along the S edge out to the point where the Rio Salado flows into the marsh.

Journal

Laguna Las Flores Grandes

Rio Salado at Puesto Romero, ~27 Km SW of San Miguel del Monte, by road Ptdo. del Monte, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 15 cont'd

This side of the marsh has a much more gradual slope, a much sparser + shorter vegetation, + as a result - there are several places which approach being mudflats. About 750m W of the road, ~~@~~ near the SW most part of the border we found a flock of ~52 ~~peeps~~ small shorebirds: there were 52 altogether, ~~@~~ at least 9 Bairds, 1 Zonibyx, 8 W phalarope, and the ~~50~~ rest - perhaps ~~400~~ or so, WRumped. the flock moved together, both along the edge on foot, + when it flew. We stayed there for ~20 minutes working on distinctions between WR + B, + then went on to the point where the Rio enters the marsh, beyond which we could not pass. From here we could see a large expanse of short vegetation in water - open water - mud (very little) mixed habitat. 1 flock of ~25 WR + Baird (both species present but absolute count or ratio not estimatible.) Also 1 Hegp (G or L?) foraging near a G Plover (?). 2 separate flocks of Stilt Sandpipers, one of 12, the other 5., many BN Stilts, a few H. Godwits. (We saw several large flocks + G (up to ~~32~~ individuals in one) along the S. shore on the way to the point). Other things of interest will be summarized by a list from Maurice at the end of the trip. We did see here, however, ~~a~~ a pair of great grebes w/ 3 young ~ several weeks old. This means that the breeding season is along

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Laguna Las Flores Grandes on
Rio Salado at Puente Romero, ~27 Km SW of San Miguel del Monte, Partido del Monte, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 15 cont'd

further than I expected. M Rumboll says that lapwings are breeding from July on to November, we have seen snail kites today carrying nesting material, corondevo pairs engaged in flight song, and found vultures nest partially built. One overwhelming feature of pampas bird life which became apparent while approaching this site is the density of burrowing owls. I shall have to make calculations - but in a good field there might be 3 or 4 visible along 100 yds of roadway + less than 100 yds back. And good fields are common. Two-fro's - the lapwings - are also extraordinarily frequent, + a calculation must be made. ~~Flying~~ Lago San Lorenzo ~~0745~~ 0745 ~30 Km W of Castelli by road

Sept 16 We have stopped by the road on our way from a campsite about 30 km W of here toward Gral. La Valle where MR's family has an estancia. Last night the strong NE wind stopped and it clouded over almost completely. At dawn there was very little clear sky visible (<5%). No wind. Warm - in mid 50's the road here goes close to the S end of the marsh (it is the old road - dirt + little used), going over a small spot of water which has a marsh about it. Clouds are starting to break up at 0800 + a slight SSE wind. Many shorebirds are flying over toward the south: Pectoral, WR, Baird's, Stilt Sand, Yellowlegs, Hudsonian Godwit, golden plover. We stayed at this spot for 30 minutes, leaving at 0817. I may be mistaking some of the

Journal

Lago San Lorenzo, ~15 Km W of Castelli by road,
Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 16 cont'd

Birds which ~~I called Stilts~~ which were actually
W/esp for Stilt spipers (I am taking data from tape)
but with that in mind the numbers of flyers
birds over that pt are interesting: approx

Stilt spipers and/or W/esp)	– 11 + 3 + 4 + 10 + 5 + 10 + 4 + 4	= 51
bacnd-white rumped	– 20 + 20 + 3 + 6 + 5	= 54
pectoral	– 1 + 1	= 2
Hgodwit	– 15	= 15
G-plover	– 1 + 2	= 3
Wilson ph	– 10	= 10
Gallinago	1	= 1
		136

The water over which the bridge passes at this point
is a spit coming off of Lago San Lorenzo, a lake
whose main body lies to the N of the road. To the
South it extends in a much narrower channel,
with small borders of marsh quickly ending
in typical Pampas grasslands. The marsh-lake to
the north has in it both species of swan (the
b-necked are w/ young, several ducks,
at least 3 icterids, etc. See the list given
Sept 17, as it includes birds seen today in summary
form.

by road ~10 Km W of Castelli, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina
We have stopped by the road in order to look at
flights of golden plovers passing over. See G.P. species account
for numerical data. The site is amidst plowed+grazed fields.

JP Myers
1973

Journal

200 yds W of intersection of Canal 2 and Route 11,
W of Coral La Valle, ~~Dto~~ Pucia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 16 cont'd

We stopped by a low area in the grasslands which is filled with water at 1210. There is a large group of mixed shorebirds numbering between 200 and 300 birds feeding along the edge of the water + in it. ~~Lots~~ Short grass (<5") surrounds the puddle, acres of it to the South as it is in a grazed field. The grass continues up to the edge of standing water, and into it, until the water reaches 2-3" in depth. Then the grass cuts out, + there is little vegetation. A few reeds occur in the deeper areas, as well as some tall dead weeds (3' high). Took a 2¼" photo (EX 120-3 #12)
Birds ~~sp~~ sighted there: C. melanotos, C. fuscicollis, perhaps C bairdii, but not positive, G plover. G + L Y/legs, M. himantopos, BN stilt, Brown headed gulls, H Godwits, Wind has changed to W, cloud cover breaking up. -30% temp in mid 50's. to low 60's

Punta Raza along lee side, ~10Km N of San Clemente del Tuyu on Cabo San Antonio, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

we arrived at 1445 with tide just starting to go out. By 1530 there is 50' of exposed beach. While sitting + eating lunch a sanderling landed in front of us, as did 2 G plovers. 5 Black browed Albatross are visible over the point + out several hundred yds to sea (the Atlantic!). 2 american oystercatchers also. Walking south along Lee shore: ~~B/GP~~ 40-50 GP, 1 ruddy turnstone, a few 2 collared plovers in winter plumage, a few WR, several sanderlings, and 2 C. canutus. Many Royal tern, some South american tern.

JP Myers
1973

Journal

~~Paulo~~ Several hundred yds S of Light house, Punta Raza, ~~@~~ ~10Km W of San Clemente del Tuyu, Cabo San Antonio, Pucia de BA, Argentina

Sept 16 cont'd

After walking along the lee shore W of the light house (previous locale) we drove back S and around the lighthouse, parked, and walked north along the beach. Tide is way out, now ~~was~~ ~ 1645, with 50 yds at least of exposed mud, extending out from the raised land where vegetation begins, before reaching water. Much of the mud has a surface sheen of water. ~~Flocks~~ Flock of 16 hudsonicus, 3 ruddy turnstone, ~~1~~ ? golden plover ~~1~~ 5 knot, 15+ 2 collared plovers (falklandicus)

39 peeps, 10 ~~1~~ godwits

↑ all WR probably. These birds are distributed over a piece of beach which is described by an arc 600' radius and 20° ~~5~~ me 20 mud water. Most of that is mud without water on it.

I have data on the distribution of these birds relative to water. It is in their respective species accounts. Of interest was the fact that falklandicus tended to be more toward the water than Calidris. Most of these birds were feeding, with some resting ~~+~~ or preening.

Summary - field trip in NE section of BA province near San Miguel del Monte, Coral la Valle, and San Clemente del Tuyu, Prcia de Buenos Aires Argentina

Sept ~~15~~ 14-17 (See details in Journal for specific dates for details)

Lois, Maurice Rumboll, Pablo Canevari, and Jorge Rodrigues Mata (for Monte area) left BA Friday evening and returned Monday morning. We traveled ~1020 kms, going from

Journal see specific dates

Journal

Summary of field trip in NE BA provinces near San Miguel del Monte, Gral La Valle, and San Clemente del Tuyu, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 15-17 (cont'd - for info in Journal see specific dates)

BA to San Miguel del Monte [where we spent friday evening], from there to San Clemente del Tuyu, stopping en route just west of Castelli for Saturday evening, and back to Gral LaValle for Sunday night. Monday morning we returned to BA via the coast road through La Plata. The following species were identified:

Rhea americana - by road on Route 11 near esquina de Crotto, ~20

Nothura maculosa - seen + heard throughout trip

Podiceps major - San Miguel del Monte (SMM), at G.L., and SC at sea

Podiceps rolland - SMM and GL

Podilymbus podiceps - SMM abundant, GL less so but present

Diomedea melanophrys - 4-8 seen at SC at sea

Phalacrocorax olivaceous - 1 at SC

Ardea cocoi - all over, solitary, 8 all told

Egretta alba - all over

Egretta thula - all over

Ixobrychus involucris - one at GL

Euxenura maguari - all over

Plegadis chihi - flights at SMM, less common at GL

Ajaia ajaja - 100+ in flock near GL, appear to be nesting in tule

Phoenicopterus chilensis - 28 at SMM, 4 juv.

Chauna torquata - all over, most at GL

Cygnus melancoryphus - all over, large chicks seen at GL

Coscoroba coscoroba - lots at GL, in pairs, SMM

Dendrocygna bicolor - flights at SMM.

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Summary of field trip in NE BA province near San Miguel del Monte (SMM), Oriel Lavalle (OL) and San Clemente del Tuyú (SC), Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 14-17 Dendrocygna viduata - 19 SMM

(xt'd - for details in urnal see specific s)

Anas georgica - thousands, mostly in flocks at SMM, pairs at OL

Anas versicolor - pairs all over, commoner at OL

Anas flavirostris - prs all over, " " "

Anas sibilatrix - prs all over, but few. OL - 10 prs, SMM - 1

Anas platalea - prs at SMM, 1 pr at OL

Anas cyanoptera - prs at SMM and OL

Netta peposaca - a few prs all over

Oxyura vittata - 2 ♂ in breeding plumage, OL

Circus buffoni - 2 at SMM, lots at OL

Circus cinereus - common at OL, 1 imm, ~10 adults in prs

Rupornis magnirostris - one at SMM, two along Route 11

Elanus leucurus - sparsely all over

Rostramus sociabilis - very abundant all over SMM, OL and R11

Milvago chimango - most common at SMM but everywhere else too

Polyborus plancus - common at OL, one SMM, nest building but no eggs yet

Aramus guarana - heard at OL and SMM

Fulica leucoptera - all over SMM and OL

Fulica armillata - as F. l. but many less

Fulica rufifrons - one at OL

Gallinula chloropus - one at OL, two at SMM

Porphyrula melanops - pr at OL

Rallus sanguinolentus - heard at Magdelena

Aramides ypecaha - 4 at Magdelena, lots heard

Haematopus palliatus - pairs at OL, SC

JP Myers
1973

Journal

Summary of field trip in NE BA province near San Miguel del Monte (SMM), Gral La Valle (GL) and San Clemente del Tuyú (SC) Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 14-17 (#'d - for details in journal see specific loc)

Vanellus chilensis - all over at incredible densities
Charadrius falklandicus - common at GL
Zonibyx modestus one at SMM with peeps
Pluvialis dominicus - all over near coast, few at SMM
Gallinago gallinago - one GL
Calidris fuscicollis - lots at GL, SMM, near SC
Calidris bairdii at least 9 at SMM
Calidris canutus 5 GL
Calidris melanotos at least 10 west coast of Castelli
Micropalama himantopus SMM + GL
Arenaria interpres - 4 at SC
Calidris alba - 3 at GL
Tringa melanoleuca - GL + SMM
Tringa flavipes - GL + SMM
Steganopus tricolor - SMM + GL
Numenius phaeopus - one at SC
Limosa haemastica - common SC and GL and SMM
Himantopus himantopus - SMM (abundant) and GL (less so)
Larus belcheri - ads + imm at SC
Larus dominicanus - SMM + GL
Larus ~~ridibundus~~ maculipennis ridibundus - SMM + GL
Larus cirrocephalus - only SMM
Sterna maxima - ~50 at SC
Columba ~~picazuro~~ picazuro - common, nesting w/ chicks
Columba maculosa - SMM + GL

Journal

Summary of field trip in NE BA province near San Miguel del Monte (SMM), Gral La Valle (GL), and San Clemente del Tuyu (SC) Provia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 14-17 (cont'd - for details in journal re specific dates)

Zenaidura auriculata - all over
Columbina picui - SMM, GL, Route 11
Leptotila verreauxi - GL and Route 11
Myopsitta monacha - SMM and GL
Guira guira - SMM, GL, Route 11
Tyto alba - SMM, GL
Speotyto cunicularia - very common at SMM, some GL and Rte 11
Asio flammeus - SMM
Ceryle torquata - GL
Colaptes campestroides - SMM, GL and R11
Chrysoptilus melanolaimus - SMM + R11 (near Magdelena)
Furnarius rufus - all over - building ovens
Spartanoica maluroides SC GL only one
Annumbius annumbi - all over
Phacellodomus sibilatrix SC and Magdelena
Asthenes hudsoni - one at SC
Serpophaga nigricans - NW of GL
Pitangus sulphuratus - all over
Machetornis rixosa - a few all over
Hymenops perspicillata - a few everywhere
Lessonia rufa - 1 at SMM, one at GL
Phytotoma rutila - Route 11 only
Agricora cyanoleuca - SMM + GL
Tachycineta leucorrhoa - few at SMM, many GL + R11
Troglodytes aedon - at SMM + GL

SP Myers
1973

Journal

Summary of Field trip in N° BA province near San Miguel del Monte (SMM), Estancia La Valle (GL) and San Clemente del Tuyú, Prov. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 14-17 (Hd or details see specific dates in Journal)

Mimus saturninus - SMM, GL and R11
Mimus triurus GL, R11
Turdus rufiventris GL
Poliopila dumicola - one at GL
Anthus correndera - common at SMM. + GL
Amblyrhamphus holocericeus - GL, R 11
Agelaius thilius - SMM, GL, still flocking
Pseudoleistes virescens - abundant at GL, R11
Molothrus bonariensis SMM, GL, R11
Molothrus rufoaxillaris - SMM, GL
Molothrus badius, GL R 11, SMM
Zonotrichia capensis - all over
Embernagra platensis - one at SMM, lots GL, R11
Donacospiza albifrons - pr at SC
Sicalis luteola SMM, GL
Spinus magellanicus 1♂, R11
Xolmis coronata - R11 one only
Chlorostilbon lucidus - one heard at Magdelena
Lepidocolaptes rectirostris - heard at Magdelena

9/14/73 BA -> SM Monte at night
9/15/73 around SMM and to campsite on Lago San Lorenzo via Pila
9/16/73 San Lorenzo to Castelli, Dolores, Conesa, Pte La Colorada, San Clemente to Punta Rasa and back to La Esperanza
9/17/73 return to BA via Route 11

JF Myers
1973

Journal

10 Km NE of Mar Chiquita, at Laguna Los Itenaldes, Pvcia de Santa Fe Argentina

23 September Lois and I went with MR Ronbold, Otto E Hohn, and Edward Shaw to Los Itenaldes, a large marsh-lagoon where Hohn is studying black-headed ducks. The day was clear, windy, and warm (60's). We went to a ranch at the west side of the lagoon in order to get a boat, then spent ~2 hrs rowing west through past a tule swamp (filled with nesting white-faced ibis, brown headed gulls, rosy billed pochards, great, pied billed, and Rolland's grebe, etc) in order to reach an island in the center. On the way we collected 3 b/l black-headed ducks. On the island there is a house (abandoned), a corral, water trough, and a small group of horses. Here we found White-rumped, Pectoral, and perhaps a few Baird's Sandpipers, as well as greater + lesser Y/legs, Wilson's phalarope, and many nesting black-necked stilts. I watched the sppers for a short time, before trying to collect (at which point they uncooperatively flew away). For the amount of habitat present there was a disappointingly small number of birds present. This had proved to be the case the day before, which we spent visiting a large number of marshes in the Venado Tuerto area, none of which contained any Sandpipers (although there were a few Y/legs). According to MR this is generally true for that area. Certainly remarkable, after all that we had seen the weekend before on Cabo San Antonio, was the lack of any Golden Plovers. At Los Itenaldes we saw a number of muskrats basking in the sun on top of tule rafts in the middle of the ibis colony.

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by road 928 Km NW of Buenos Aires on Pvcia Route #157
N of Tetatar Totoralejos, Pvcia de Cordoba, Argentina

Oct 3

We were driving north from Cordoba, Pvcia de Cordoba, towards Tucuman via Route 157, having left Cordoba ~7Am. The road is flat for the 1st 50 Km and then begins rolling, especially after cutting away from the road National Route #9 toward Santiago del Estero. The area is very dry, with many cactus - largely prickly pear and later an organ-type. About Km 900 (numbered from BA) we passed the first standing water. There had been a series of bull-dozed water-holdings which were dry. This water was in one such thing, with cattle + people around it. No shorebirds. At Km 928 we passed a series of small roadside puddles, more rare than 15' across (i.e. water more than that width), but extending for perhaps 500' along the road. 18 Baird's sandpipers were spread along this length I collected 2. Each adjacent the ponds were salt, and surrounded by dikes of mud ~5' wide on both sides. The dry mud went to the road on one side and up the side of the right-of-way to the other. Vegetation beyond was low xeric scrub. Less than 20 Km beyond the collection site we came onto a great salt flat, which we had been bordering for at least 50 Km. At one pt. I had seen, from a vantage pt., well onto it + there seemed to be patches of standing water. But it could have been mirage. No other shorebirds were seen the entire day. We spent the night between Frias and Santiago del Estero (where we were going for car repairs) in a small range of hills.

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Journal

Pucial Route #307 between ~~Monteros~~ Acheral and Antiguo Quilmes, Pucia de Tucuman, Argentina

5 October

~~AG~~ Lois and I drove south from Tucuman on Nat. Route #38 to ~~Monteros~~ Acheral and turned west there on Pucial Rute 307. We passed through ~~Monteros~~ Acheral at approximately 0930. Weather was raining (the first of the season according to CC (Prog), cool (in the 50's) with a wind blowing strongly to the west. Elevation at Monteros is ~1200'. We made little systematic attempt to identify birds as we saw them, but ~~so~~ did make an effort to find shorebirds. The road follows a river up the mountains to a pass at 9900' called Abra de Infiernillo. On the opposite slope it follows a stream down to a large valley, the bottom of which is 6000' and which follows the Rio Santa Maria. Going up from ~~Monteros~~ Acheral the first 20 Km is flat, ~~pass~~ passing through sugar cane fields. Then there is an abrupt change to mountain road (road surface good in rain, though) and a dense subtropical rainforest w/ bamboo, bromeliads, very large trees, and fuschia. Prog told us to expect forest ducks and Cinclus schultzi, but we did not see them. The vegetation changed little ~~gradually~~ until ~3000', when the undergrowth began thinning out (changed little, that is, to an unvertical eye) Abruptly at 6000' the road breaks out into a very large valley over 13 Km long and not quite as wide. At this point the vegetation becomes ~~quite a~~ steppe-like in nature. The weather broke here too, with the clouds (which had been at road level on the way up) lifting and clearing. We stopped to eat on a broad open field about 6 Km from the opening of the valley. Here the ground vegetation was a ~~so~~ very closely cropped grass; much horse shit all around. ~~The~~ A pair of Andean Lapwings were on the

JP Myers
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Recid Route #307 between Acheral and Antigua Quilmes, Acia de Tucuman, Argentina

3 October contd

field by the road. ~50 yds to the S from the road the river formed a steep embankment, with a broad open field on the opposite side. On the grass across the river were several pairs of Southern Lapwings, as well as at least one more pair of Andean. The river at this point had much sand and open banks along it. At the NNE end of the valley, beyond Tafi del Valle, the road becomes quite steep rising to 9900' in 23 Km. Beyond the site described above I saw no Southern Lapwings, but many Andean. Rufous collared sparrows were common in the bunch grass and along gullies. There were an incredible number of buteos - at least 2 species, one being definitely Geranoaetus melanoleucus, the other probably B. polyosoma. these birds soared extensively, and also used the extensive outcroppings of rock for perches. Chiguanco thrushes (Turdus chiguanco) were common as well. At least 2 furnariids (one Cinclodes - almost certainly atacamensis, seen in gullies and ravines, and I found one nesting on the bridge over the river at the south end of the above valley (6000')) and one furnariid which I did not ID but do have a 55 mm photo of. Several burrowing owls, including a nesting pair (their pellets had much mammal fur in them) at 8900'. the only Caracara I saw up there was at 7000'. Sparrow hawks (mobbed by Andean lapwings. Above Tafi del Valle (6000') the only trees were by houses, of which there were one or two every few Km. Vegetation was otherwise some sort of bunch grass, being grazed by horses, sheep, llama, and guinea pig.

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Pivial Rock #307 between Achiral and Antigvo Quilmes, Prcia de Tucuman, Argentina

5 October cont'd

Rock outcroppings and eroded gullies, many with running water in them were the dominant geo-form other than the broad loose-soiled slopes. At 9700' there was an obvious change in the soil, the amount of loose rock in it, and the density of the vegetation (it became more so). This continued up to the top of the pass (9900') and down the other side, with the land becoming more xeric. Large barrel-type cactus were present from ~9000' down to ~7000'. At the bottom, near the Rio Santa Maria, was a low scrub forest developed. Much more water down there than I expected. At El Banado there was a small holding pond and series of water-filled ditches. Many swallows (sp?) and some Southern lapwings. No shorebirds. Sandpipers. On the way down I spotted what were probably 3 Andean condors, but they disappeared before I got the scope on them. We went back up and over the pass, spending the night at 8900' on the SE side.

Laguna Las Flores Grandes on Rio Salado at Puente Romero, ~27 Km SW of San Miguel del Monte by road, Prcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 Oct

After spending the previous night 3 Km N by road from PRomero [we were unable to reach the bridge the previous evening because of bad roads (we got stuck) soaked by rain] Lois + I arrived at PR approximately 0830. Water level is much higher than it was 15 Sept. In fact it may be several feet above the level present then. The south side road is impassable, the north side beach is not suitable at all now for shorebirds (+ there aren't any) - water covering all mud up to grass, with tan foam bordering much of the edge. However 0.75 Km north

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11 Oct cont'd

Laguna Las Flores Grandes on Rio Salado at Puente Romero, ~27 km SW of San Miguel del Monte, by road, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

of the bridge by road we found pectorals and white rumped. Habitat was recently plowed field with sparse grass rising up to 5 3 inches; the field had towhard several depressions occupying something like 35% of its area. Three were filled with water. The Snipers were moving between three depressions being chased by Southern Lapwings (see species account). Also saw ~20 Hudsonian godwits, 2 large (50+) ibis flocks, 9 teros (within 200 yd radius of car (in half circle), many brown-hooded gulls, chimango, white-faced whistling duck, fulvous tree duck, yellow billed pintail, ck. Weather was in mid 50's, wind very strong out of west, cloud cover 30% (had been clear at dawn). Just as we were about to leave 3 more Pectorals flew by (at 0915) - making a total of 6 for that site, and then 6 WR at 0920 making 20. The Pectorals again had problem with the teros. → +1 more pectoral with that flock. 0921 9 peeps flying east. Found a tero chick. Hornero's building nests. Fork tailed flycatchers back (saw them near Tucuman on Oct 4 for first time; now Hugan in BA area.

Punta Raza, ~10 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyu, Cabo San Antonio, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 Oct cont'd

We arrived circa 1530 to the "parking lot" + set of huts at the end of the road from San Clemente. More people than last time. Walked immediately to the west in order to survey the tidal flats on the lee side of the point. Tide was way out; in fact it may have already turned. ~50 White-Rumped, ~3 sanderlings, 10+ ruddy turnstones, golden and blackbellied plover, oystercatcher. The Hudsonian

Journal

Punta Raza, ~10 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyu, Cabo San Antonio
Prov de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 Oct
Cont'd

the birds were very spooky, not letting me get close enough for a shot. They collected across a tidal outlet too deep for me to wade. In the future I must approach that area from the lighthouse or from the hunting club.

We camped on the lee side of the first major slough which is west of the ocean (behind a set of dunes). It may be reached (via ~~foot~~ (not tidal water) ~~road~~ by taking a small dirt road which cuts off to the right from a pt on the "main" road to Punta Raza about 100 yards to the east of the ~~pt~~ place where the ~~road~~ lighthouse road leaves the Punta Raza road. This slough is the area where Olrog had told me shorebirds foraged when the tide was high and covered the major mud flats to the north.

At 1800 we found 3 Ylegs, 2 P. dominicus + 1 P. squatarola, tero's, perhaps 3 stilt sandpipers. [Also Cliff + Barn Swallows.]

Recall that ~~this~~ low tide turned near @ 1530. 1805 - lesser Ylegs came in 1808 plover left. 1815 Bothrops!! slivered down past my butt + 2 inches from my boot. I didn't see it until I pointed it out. I then walked ~300 yds N + found a ~~large~~ flock of WR-24, many Ylegs (perhaps some stilt), 1 oystercatcher, many plovers, including dominicus of both species. The birds were using 2 areas, one ~~across~~ due east from our camp (which is ~~50~~ 50 yds S of the pt where the road "crosses" the slough) and another north 300 yds along the slough at a pt where it jogs to the west. The peeps seem to prefer it closer to camp. ~~1840 birds down across from camp~~ ~~flock~~ Birds are very flighty, but feeding when I found. 1842 - wind dying, & more peeps coming in to camp site. Sun is

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Punta Raza, ~ 12 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyu, Cabo San Antonio, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 Oct cont'd

almost set (<5° above horizon). A storm is passing along to the west toward the south. 1844 23 WR down, plus 4 plover. 1846 - Squatarola came in, spooking a few WR. What is the bird in the area of this slough that sounds like a ruffed grouse? Ask Maurice. One non-WR peep joined them the WR when they flew off to the north out of sight. 1903 sunset, temp = 55°

12 Oct

Unfortunately today is Juan Peron's inauguration, and thus a national holiday. As a result, San Clemente del Tuyu is filling up with people, and Punta Raza suffers as a consequence. By 9 AM the area near our campsite is filling with people (they never stopped coming till we left in mid afternoon). The procession began as I was escorted in a patch of Sanderling (counting) out in the mudflat surrounded by a flock of white-rumps. The people's presence disturbed both my behavior (in that I did not feel I could go shooting) and the birds' (as evidenced by frequent flights). Nonetheless I was able to get some worthwhile data on WR (see species account.) All told through the morning there were about 60 WR, there in 2 separate flocks (which at times merged). Also - knots (2) ~~sanderling~~ several Pluvialis, 6 Ylego, 3 hudsonian godwits.

I began watching at 0645 (sun up) temp 50°, wind slight and from west. Peeps (30-40) were already in the slough at that time. Both the pups and I stayed in the slough until 0920, after which they left (I stayed to foto owls).

As far as potential study sites go, this area is very attractive. The birds are known to be here throughout the season. There are at least two different habitat types in which they are foraging (tidal slough vs

Journal

Punta Raza, ~10 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyu, Cabo San Antonio, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

12 Oct cont'd

tidal mud flat), they are very accessible, and the slough lends itself to being gridded. The accessibility though is more of a deficit because of the numbers of people that come. According to the MacIver's (mayor of Coal la Valle) this weekends traffic is representative of much of the summer. There are more on the point than usual, though, because of a coast-wide series of fishing contests. It may be worth asking MR if one can get onto the area on the other side of the Rio Salado mouth, and thus out of the way of most of the people.

At 1330 Lors + I went to the beach by the hunting + fishing club, where we had gone with MR 16 Sept (described as "several hundred yds S of light house, Punta Raza") Tide had just turned. I saw a flock of over one hundred WR across the Rio Salado there, and along the beach we saw both Hovicilis, oystercatchers, 20-30 WR, 3-4 hudsonian godwit. We could not pass the large mudflat that we had reached with MR on 16 Sept because the tide was still too high. The great number of people there compelled us to leave. We drove Road along Canal #2, headed west from Coal la Valle, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

We examined the water hole visited 16 ~~Oct~~ Sept by us + MR just 200 yds west of Rte 11. The pond had extended its margins by 75'-100'; no shorebirds were present. We then began a census of lapwings and burrowing owls: starting 3 km west of the intersection of Rte 11 and Canal 2, we stopped every 2 km. I counted all tero's and burrowing owls present without what I

JP Myers
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Journal

Road along Canal #2 headed SW from boul La Valle, Prov de Buenos Aires, Argentina

12 October cont'd could detect with 3 minutes. Also any other shorebird were noted (only P dominicus (P dominicus + T. subruficollis (!!) next by) Wind was strong and from south; temp in 60's, no clouds. We continued added camping for an hour until camping by the canal.

During the evening Sr. Biancini (?) on whose property Welter worked, and where roseate spoonbills nest according to Maurice, stopped by to chat on. He invited us to visit his lake - I record this in order to take him up later on the invitation. His house is the first one after the 1st bridge over the canal after leaving Rte 11, ~10 km to the west.

Many large flocks of Phalacrocorax olivaceus flew over at dusk, as well as black-necked swans, R. spoonbill, fulvous white-faced Tree duck.

13 Oct. At dawn 33 Phalacrocorax oli. flew 0545 hrs north east overhead. Temp 38°F, wind strong and from west. no clouds. 0800 we began censusing again. The data for yesterday + today are presented below:

Km (from Rte 11)	tero	b.owl	other birds
5	3	0	6 P. Dominicors
7	11	0	
9 (12 Oct ↑)	13	0	
11 (13 Oct ↓)	8	0	
13	17	1	100+ P domin. 1 Tryngites subruficollis
15	11	0	
17	6	0	

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13 Oct cont'd

Road along Canal #2 headed SW from Gnal Lavalle, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Km (from Rte 11)	tero	bowt	other shorid
19	4	1	
21	1	0	
23	6	2	
25	3	0	
27	4	1	
29	4	0	

Route 56 to Gnal Madariaga from Canal 2, Rte 11 S to ~~Rte~~ Canal 5 Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

21 Km S of the intersection of Rte 56 + Canal 2 (where we turned south) we stopped to survey a field of golden plover, with the intent of picking out Buff-breasted Sipers. In this flock there were 35 G.P. within 100 yds (radius) of car, and one Tryngites subruficollis. ~~The~~ The field was very closely cropped, having both horses + cattle on it. Grass is less than 3" high, and there are thistles sparsely distributed in clumps 3'-10' apart, with large open spaces of grass only as well. Entire Family flat; there is a marsh not too far away. Screamers + tero's are also there. We found this bird at 1120, wind still strong + from W, no clouds. This field is not atypical of much of the route, but at the same time it is more closely cropped than many of the others. ~~At~~ 1130 found 3 more buff-breasts in a flock of golden plovers on a field just beyond the last site, 18 Km N of Gnl Madariaga. (according to a road sign) at the intersection of Rte 56 with a road leading to west to Monsalvo (13 Km). The field on

Rte 56 south from Canal 2 to Gral Madariaga, then south by Rte 11 to Canal #5, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

13 Oct cont'd

Five km south of Juancho we spotted 4 leap flying over to a marsh 100' ~~from~~ to west of road. ν 100 G+L 4 leap, 30+ Pectoral Sniper, + 1 W phalarope. Collected Pectoral. The ~~was~~ area is very attractive. A passerby from the estancia (who gave me permission to hunt there) said the place was called Charly (sp) Ea. Charles ~~there~~ the puddle in which I shot the bird ~~was~~ is similar to that at the intersection of Rte 11 + Canal 2. visited Sept 16, 1973. Emergent vegetation throughout the water, mostly a grass with two patches of tule. Water up to 1.5' deep, with a broad area around the periphery shallow. The marsh is 50 yds north of a RR crossing. 200 yds S of RR 30-40 4 leap + 3 pectorals the marsh continues for some distance.

19 ~~00~~ Km S of Juancho - no buffies in a flock of 25 G. plover.

25 km S of Juancho - 42 g plover, no buffie (see sp. account).

28 km S of Juancho 9 g plover

At this point there is a beautiful ranch with much g pa and buffy habitat and also tidal areas (the dunes are about 2km (actually 7+ to the east of the road.)

35 Km S of Juancho - 100+ (~~200~~ 71 definite + a healthy percentage missed) Buff breasted Sand piper. See species account. Collected one. 20 G plover and 2 tero. the field here looks identical (or almost) to the other fields where we saw buffies. Very short stubble w/ sheep. Spotted the buffies before spotting golden. this field is owned by people who have a house @ 34 Km S of Juancho, 46 N of Mar Chiquita 5 Km N of "Estancia La Atlantida", 12 Km N of 3 Cano

the discovery of Golden Ea Woodland

JP Myers
1973

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Rt 56 to Oval Madariaga from Canal 2, then Rt 11 from Oval Madariaga South to Canal #5.

13 Oct cont'd which we saw three last 3 baffles is quite similar to the one where the ~~per~~ previous one was. grass cropped almost as closely. (3-4 inches in tufts) by sheep.

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Canal 5 South on Rte 11 to Mar Chiquita, then back North to Canal 7, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

14 October 1400 we broke camp and headed south along Rte 11. The day has been clear (no clouds), with little wind (a striking change) and warm temperatures (48° at dawn, into 70's by noon). 10 Km S of the canal #5 junction we found a herd of rhea (9) around a nest (see sp. account) with 4 eggs; the eggs were in the process of being laid. 18 Km S of Canal 5 a field w/ 100+ Golden plovers + sheep, seriamers, burrowing owls, tern's, chimangos but no evident buff-breasted sandpipers. Field is similar to those where buffies have been, but these one is covered with a small butter-cup like flower. 0.5 Km to west from road there is a large swamp w/ what looks like breeding colony of gulls + ibis. At Mar Chiquita we made it all along the road to the east here dunes can be seen, and for the latter part of the trip a large body of water (Laguna Mar Chiquita) is very evident. Much of the vegetation to the east is the Spartina which also occurs at Punta Raga. Along the road on both sides are extensive plowed fields, as well as a lot of grazing land - 20% or so which looks like potential buffie habitat. At Mar Chiquita we went out to the beach, which was jammed w/ people. No sandpipers; 4 oystercatchers. Albatross + 1 Macronectes visible off shore. A big group of terns look like they're getting ready to nest at the north end of the lagoon which empties into the ocean about 500 yds north of where the beach road ends. We then returned south, and took a side road from Rte 11 to Nahuel Roca and Calfucurá. 700 meters west of the junction of these two roads (1700 pm.) found 100+ Golden plover + 4 buffies

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Canal 5 South on Rte 11 to Mar Chiquita, then back North to Canal 7, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

14 October cont'd

the field in which the buffies are is again identical to that in which they have been appearing: grass ≤ 1" with a few tufts that are higher, although this field does not have the density of tufts as some of the others. Teru's, gulls, burrowing owls, + sheep. 3 Km west of the junction found 300-400 Golden Plover plus at least 10 buffies. this field has taller grass, 3" with clumps of tuft grass and clumps of dirt covered with a pulpy weed. the plovers are major. by ~~well~~ spaced, although it is impossible to ~~tell how~~ for all because they are distributed from the road to a point 500 m or more away. We continued on to Nahuel Rucá, then north to Calfucurá, seeing only a few more goldens (flying) and no buffies. Inland there is little more of the classic buffie habitat, at least on this road. At Calfucurá we turned around, returned to Rte 11 via the same route, and found a camping site where Canal #7 (~10 km north of the point where we rejoined Rte 11 flows into ~~the~~ Laguna Mar Chiquita. On the road as the sun set hundreds of golden plovers could be seen flying from west of the road toward the marshes along the Laguna. I watched one group land on this → west side of the Laguna.

Mouth of Canal #7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 22 km W of Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

15 October

arose at 0545 + went to edge of mud flat at the mouth of Canal 7. A fantastic set of shorebird habitat - very wide, shallow mud flat, with water from the canal flowing over ~~less than~~ 5" deep for several hundred yards out, much of that less than 2". II Freshwater ~~Marsh~~ Tit Snipes ~~were~~, 50-60 w Rump, several Pectoral flying inland

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15 October cont'd

Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 22 Km N of Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

the pectorals were all flying alone. Sun up ~0600. Also saw many Hudsonian godwits, 6 and L Ylegs, golden plovers. All of the birds were on the broad mudflat beyond the mouth. Temp. at dawn was 48°. No wind, no clouds. I returned to camp at 0700. Then back to marsh at 0815. I hid along the edge in a patch of ~~tot~~ sedge + watched for an hour. At 0815 20 WR, 10 H godwit, ~~3~~ <1 Tern, ducks, a few golden plover (I scared away a flock of 6+L Ylegs upon arriving.

5 Km W of Mar de Plata, by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

the sea is now buffeting against a low cliff which extends both to the W + South from here. A huge raft of ~~Macrocystis~~ Macronectes - several hundred birds - is right off shore.

Mouth of Canal #7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 22 km N of Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

~~1830~~ I returned to the edge of mudflat + hid in the sedge. When I came there were: 1 screamer, 10 terns, ~50 6+L Ylegs, 30+ 6 plovers. By 1845 things were returning. On island ~500 m to the North there were (at 1845) 50 6 plovers, 20 WRump, many gulls (of 2 species) + terns. At 1908 Sun set. 31 6P on edge of flat ~~due east~~ for straight out from mouth + 16 WRump. Immediately in the mouth are 20-30 6 ~~WRump~~ Ylegs + 40 L Ylegs. 10 tern. 14 WR about 120 yds up along shore. @ 1916 ~~WR~~ WR flock suddenly burdgeoned to 75 peeps. 3 W. Phalarope. 1921 flock flew north + out of sight. BW Stilt came in at that time

JP Myers
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Mouth of Canal #7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita 22 km W of Mar Chiquita, Prov. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

15 October cont'd

Then 8 Stilt-like peeps appeared. Light not good enough to see anything much more than silhouette: larger than WR, good eye-stripe (light), bill long + curved at end (or drooping), breast is greyish with some whitish areas toward the center, i.e. moderately clear. Back is dull grey. Unfortunately I can't see their tail pattern. No white down back. They are Stilt Sandpipers

16 October

Down at mudflat by 0530. A lot was at the mouth when I arrived - both Ylegs, a screamer, wilson's phalarope, tern sp., Hudsonian godwits, golden plovers, Hudsonian godwits left. But most of them left by the time I had hidden myself in the sedge. 10 skimmers went by. 0540 23 peeps visible. 0550 - stilt sandpiper. I kept track during the morning of #'s of WR's visible at 10 minute intervals see sp. account. Left to return to camp at 0715. Down again at mouth of canal by 4 terns, 10 ± Ylegs, 20 golden plovers, 34 H godwit, 11 WR sp., 2 gulls of kelp + (brown headed, 6 b-necked swans, 10 ducks (most pintails) and a few terns. Started with 930 I walked south along the edge of the mar for ~700 paces: the flat mud bottom becomes much firmer and a bit deeper as soon as you get away from the mouth of the canal, much earlier. Not typical shbird foraging habitat. 0930 saw 2 peeps flying north. Long wings much harrier foraging over the sedge to the west. Many Zonotrichia in the vegetation and spectacled tyrants. Pampas finches. I walked to a point where I could see all of the beach between to the south between me and a fishing club (the 1st one south of the canal). there are no sandpipers, nor does it look as if the character of the edge is changing from that of the mixture of mud and sand which it had been up to then. From this point I can

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Mouth of Canal #7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 22 Km N of Mar Chiquita, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

16 October cont'd

see part the club, and with the scope discern ~30 Podicipedidae, 24 flamingos, a few gulls, 3 b-necked swans, ducks, and 16 olivaceous cormorants, and several great grebes. At the far end of the lake are large numbers of swans and flamingos, many great grebes spread out over the water. 0940 headed back to camp. Abundant there are capybara + vizcacha tracks, as well as a fox. 10:00-shot a wren (023) in front of the mouth of the canal

35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

On our way to Gral Madariaga we stopped at the field where I had shot the ruffy the previous day. The birds were still there, many of them. We went on to the house to again try + get permission, but found that the Capataz, a Sr. Costas, would not be back till dark. We got temporary permission to go onto the land to collect. I got one ruffy. (024) There were easily as many of them this time as before, but perhaps fewer golden plovers. On return We then left for Gral. Madariaga, and at 1800 were back to talk to the Capataz. Just before he arrived we saw 2 short-eared owls and one long-winged harrier hunting over the nearby fields. Costas says that the Estancia is called Ea. Medaland, owned by Sr Arrelain of Mar de Plata, living at the corner of Rawson y Albert (or something like that). We also secured camping + hunting permission for tomorrow night.

Mouth of Canal #7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 22 Km N of Mar Chiquita, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 October. Set escopeta in hole by the edge of the marsh by 0530. I located myself 400 paces to the north of the mouth of the canal, right in front of the a large (in area) but low mud-sand bank on which the birds have been both morning + evening on previous days. It was about

Mouth of Canal #7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 22 Km N by road from Mar Chiquita, Pvcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 October cont'd

~~@~~ 15 minutes too late to get there without disturbing the Crieds; by 0530 there was too much light. Mobbed by gulls for 10 minutes, they then left. 0600 6 peeps, 6 Black-bellieds, a pair of Plegocryptes was feeding in the hole within 3 ft of me most of the morning. 7-colored tyrant, Agelaius. 6+4 Legs there all morning, as well as golden plovers, tero-teros. At 0602 the sun was on the horizon - little wind, temp in the 50's, cloud cover ~25%. At 0605 I started sampling #'s of peeps every five minutes, and continued until leaving at 0730. A few Wilson's phalaropes and about 10 s<lt sandpipers came and left while I was there. Hudsonian godwits around all morning. The usual contingent was present. After leaving my hiding place I easily collected five white rumps (025-029) from the flock I had been watching.

Estancia Medaland
35 Km South of Juancho by road Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1530 we entered the Estancia by the gate immediately to the ~~north~~ south of the housing complex by the road. A dirt road leads ~~west~~ east there for Km through a classic buffy-golden plover field, ~~with~~ over Arroyo Chico, through a dryer + taller set of ~~reeds~~ grass and a tule swamp, on the other side of which the road ends ~~in~~ at another housing complex. About a Km east from Rte 11 there are a series of small, vegetation filled (grass) roadside puddles, and a few larger ponds bordered by grass. ~~We~~ I collected a pectoral ~~there~~ off the side of the road here (030) Saw at least 3 ~~more~~ others. Scads of buffies and golden plovers along this stretch of the road - they are almost not at all spooked by the car. At least 100 goldies, with ~50 buffies ~~also~~ in one flock at that site. 1550 headed on ~~west~~ east, 3 more Pectorals flew by as we took off. 1600 - 24 buffies ~~within~~ in a herd of cattle. Few of the birds (except the Pectorals) were feeding. For the next Km (3rd after gate) there were thinly scattered golden plovers with no buffies nor any pectorals. Then we entered another group of buffies, thinly spread with a flock. 4 on the right within 50 ft of road. 50 yds down road on road 14 buffies

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Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S of Dvancho by road, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 October cont'd

0.75 Km further east we arrived at Arroyo Chico. 2 Hudsonian godwit, 2 ~~god~~ W-rump, one Pectoral, several Plovers, one Olivaceous cormorant Immediately across the arroyo was a low closely cropped field with higher, pulpier grass - also clods of dirt w/ flocks of buffies visit: 10 buffy + 1 golden 50 yds down 20 buffies. Across road 80-100 golden plovers. Their field was also atypical - almost all tuft grass 4"-5" high which obscures most of the bird. 5 Km from Rte 11 we entered the big swamp - Black necked swans, pied-billed grebes, Aguilas, yellow billed pintails etc. Brgs. the road ends 6 Km from ~~the~~ Rte 11. There we met several gauchos, one who's name is "Wishi" (?) who said that Pectorals are most common sandpipers here - but I doubt his information Wishi said that much of the water around here is permanent especially to the east toward the ocean, where there are lagunas several meters deep. Unfortunately you cannot go the whole way (or further than the 6 Km we have gone already) by car. ~~1820~~ ~~while preparing the~~ On the way back to our campsite, which is just east of the "ridge" on the west edge of the series of ponds I noted 1 Km east of Rte 11 on Estancia Medaland, I collected a buff-breasted (~~0230~~ 0327). 1825 while preparing the birds from today I kept an eye out for buffy-golden activity. Sun still above horizon. 30 buffies 120 yards to the south from camp + flock of 100+ across pond to NE. 1835 flock of nearby buffies to south took off. 1840 2 buffies return to that area. Perhaps they roost in this area. 1850 - few buffies + many goldens feeding over field. 1855 13 buffies going E. 1900 Sun just set - no buffies, a few goldens. 2330 ~~oo~~ I finished the last white-rumped. A wind came up - strong from SW. It continued through the night and next morning, in the process ripping off a guy line for our tent fly. We headed south along Rte 11 toward Mar de Plata after I had finished the buffy

Huici →

18 October

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Estancia Medaland, 35 Km south of Ivancho, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

18 October — and Pectoral collected yesterday evening. Throughout the morning while doing the birds I saw goldens + buffies flying in the wind + foraging in the grass near our camp.

15 Km E of Miramar by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

From camp on a bluff above the ocean several hundred albatross + shearwater are visible. At least some of the albatross may be great. Looks as if jaegers are present as well, but difficult to tell in the evening light over the distance at which they are flying. By dusk only a few birds were visible, including 2 Macronectes in above shore

43 Km E of intersection Bahia Blanca by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

19 October — Flock of 80-100 Golden Plovers flying north across road at 1645. They are the first GP we've seen all day, since leaving last night's campsite near Miramar, despite the fact that we have traversed fields which looks like appropriate golden habitat.

Salitral de la Vidriera, 31 Km SW Bahia Blanca by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Just before dusk, as we crossed the Salitral on Route #3 a flight of peeps flew East over the road.

20 October — 0700 we came back to the Salitral from camp in the car, and parked by the side of the road. The vegetation around the salitral is low scrub forest. On the edge is a broad expanse of firm mud. Water appears to be shallow some distance out. Close to the road are a number of Baird's Sp (35) feeding on the mud. Across the water are well over 100 peeps, but as I also saw a flock of 13 Rumps I'm not sure what the large flock was. From behaviour, and from the few birds that have left the group + flown (yes, I counted) most of them to be Baird's. I collected one Baird's (032) from the group by the road. Weather cloudy, low wind, temp in 50's

Journal

5 Km W of Bahia San Blas by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

20 October cont'd

The road to San Blas from José B. Casas crosses a tidal channel + mud area just before reaching San Blas. We camped to the south of the road, ~100 yds from the bridge. Along the tidal mud flats during the afternoon and evening I counted ~50-100 W Rumps, 3 or 4 oystercatchers, 15 Kelp gulls, 3-4 Ylegs, and about 10 Golden Plovers (!). Also 4-5 tern-terns. The W Rumps appeared only after the tide was almost completely out, and foraged in a basin that, with the tide so low, contained only a thin ribbon of water with 30 ft of mud on each bank. At dusk a thunderstorm moved in, and it rained an incredible amount, soaking some of our gear thoroughly.

21 October

Very low cloud cover, strong southwest wind. W Rumps were foraging on the mud flat at 0730. (We are still recovering from the previous night's soaking. As it looked as if it was going to rain, + there was some doubt about the passability of the road anyway, we left immediately.

Viedma, Prcia de Rio Negro to Puerto Madryn, Prcia de Chubut, over Route #3.

Though not at all remarkable because of the vegetation, we saw no shorebirds for this stretch of road, several hundred kilometers. West + South of Viedma you enter a rolling country covered with scrub. By the time you are in Chubut the vegetation looks very much like a Mojave desert - Larrea flora. Very few birds - some flocks of finches, a bluebird-like bird, and a few turkey vultures.

Golfo San Jose, ~16 Km N by road from intersection of Provincial Routes 2 and 3, Peninsula Valdez, Prcia de Chubut, Argentina

22 October

We tried to find Roger Payne's study site but wound up in a cove several Km W of the main road and 1 or 2 Km SW of Payne (we think). In order to get here we took a dirt road leading to the left from the main road ~15 Km from the intersection of routes 2 and 3, following the dirt road until it hit Golfo San Jose.

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Golfo San Jose, ~16 Km N by road from the intersection of Provinc. Rtes #2 & #3, Peninsula Valdez, Provincia de Chubut, Argentina

22 October — the weather today has been beautiful - no wind (or very little), few scattered clouds, temp in high 60's. On the dirt road from the main road saw crested tinamou (sp?) a tawny-throated dotterel, and 2 Patagonian hares. Also flocks of finches, & mockingbirds. The dirt road leads to a large cove in Golfo San Jose, which, at low tide, is bordered by an extensive muddy-sand (25-50 yds wide border), and to the north by the same plus a Salicornia-like flat (200 yds wide). The muddy-sand flat is perforated by small ponds, up to 20' long and a few inches deep, as well as one stream which appears to be flowing in. The Salicornia has a series of deep ditches running out toward the ocean; they have water in them, and are occasionally bordered by a thin edge of sand or mud. Within the Salicornia are patches of exposed, often cracked dried mud, varying in size from a foot or less across to 30' or more. The latter are much less common than the former. The Salicornia flat extends from a pronounced rise, where terrestrial vegetation (sparse xeric scrub cropped heavily by sheep) begins out to high tide line. It looks as if the Salicornia is at least infrequently covered by high tide, judging from the water lines along the edge of the above-mentioned rise. Tide when we arrived was very low. There were many white-rumped sandpipers out on the mud-sand, most of them around the edges of the ponds. We saw flocks of several hundred WR flying. Also a few (10) Baird's in the Salicornia, and 2 knots out along the ocean (& at the ponds). We chose a camp site 30' from the edge of the rise, behind a clump of trees. On the other side of the trees, ~50' onto the Salicornia, was a flock of 470-500 white-rumps getting ready to roost (1830). They stayed in the area till as late as I could see (~2000), but were not out there when I walked out at 2200. Although at that time (2200) there were isolated WR in the Salicornia. During the afternoon we had also seen Charadrius falklandicus on the beach & Salicornia (many of them), albatross, Macronectes, and whales !! The whales are less than .3 miles off

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Golfo San Jose, ~16 Km N by road from the intersection of Provincial Route #2 and #3, Peninsula Valdez, Provincia de Chubut, Argentina

22 October

shore. There are several of them. They are slapping both side + tail fins against the water, as well as making a loud blowing sound. Rolling over. 55° at dusk

23 October

Sun over the hills to our east at 0 ~0700. Wind is up, from SW. Warm, thin cirrus clouds covering ~ 20%, with some cumulus to north. Whales, albatross, and white-rumps still around. 400+ WR seen, on Salicornia and out on mud (tide is low but coming in rapidly). 20 - 2 flocks of 10; sanderlings along shore. one Golden Plover!! A few Baird's heard flying. 0930 a flock of WR and sanderlings came in to the area where the WR were roosting last night, ~150 WR + 40 sanderlings. 1000 looking out from camp a few peeps are always visible flying by. We met a sheepherder this morning, named Sr. Fracaso (sp?), who said we may return when we want. Also told us that the name of the Estancia is Augustin Torrejon de Uladech that may be the name of the owner (our communication was not perfect) or of the Estancia. Fracaso intimated that he or his family (Fracaso's) owned the land, or so I understood. In the middle of the day we went to Roger Payne's base camp approximately five kilometers up the coast to the north. Roger Payne was working and not available, but two of his assistants, Chris , a Stonybrook grad student, and Lisa , were there and helpful. In addition we talked briefly to Payne via radio. He suggested we check out Whale Cove (what they call our previous night's campsite), and Playa El Riacho, both toward Puerto Madryn near Isla de los Pajaros. We then drove on to an elephant seal breeding colony at Punta Norte. The seals are spread along the beach from Punta Norte at least several km south; the colony is not dense, at least when & where we saw it. Also there are sea lions there as well. We watched a ♂ and his harem, 6 ♀ plus their young of the year. The ♂ made many advances to the ♀♀, and we saw at least four copulations. His wounds, many of which were fresh, were fresh blood. As we left it appeared that

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Pvcia. de Chubut
Punta Norte, Peninsula Valdez, ~~Provincia de Chubut~~, Argentina

23 October cont'd

another ♂, also with fresh ~~scars~~ scars, was approaching (he would advance several yards and then lie very low and close to the beach, then rear up as if to check on the reaction of the ♂ with the harem, who was sleeping). Many Macronectes cruised up and down the beach. Sheathbills!! were foraging among the sea lions on the shore, and out on an exposed rocky & intertidal area. We saw 115 altogether. Many Oystercatchers. 1 Baird's sandpiper heard flying over. At least 30 WR flew by to the north after the tide was well on its way in. Five stopped to forage on the rocky intertidal area where sheathbills and oystercatchers had been. Kelp gulls. Unidentified terns. On the way ~~back~~ from Payne's we saw several Lesser Rhea, two solitary and 3 in a group. One Guanaco. several Patagonian hares. Also something that looks like a Rhinocryptid - but wasn't - a cactus-wren sized bird, mostly brown with rufous under the tail, a pronounced eyestrip. We found a group in the scrub. they did not fly except to get on top of low bushes. Ran with Tinderet

~~24 October~~

Punta Norte, ~~Peninsula Valdez~~ to Caleta Valdez, Peninsula Valdez, Pvcia de Chubut, Argentina

24 October

We spent the early morning hours photographing along the pebble beach near camp. About 100 yards from shore the ground becomes entirely pebble, with a few islands of vegetation - beneath them a mixture of dirt and pebbles - spaced out along the ~~water~~ inland edge of the pebble strip. The strip itself is divided into a series of bands of different sized pebbles, the smallest being about 3/8" in diameter and the larger ones being up to two inches. The ~~stripes~~ bands or pebble bands alternate as the strip undergoes a series of ~~wave~~ undulations after leaving the very steep wave-washed tidal edge. Along the tidal edge, it must be ~~20~~ 40-50' high, an ~~spread~~ ~~of~~ sea lions, sea elephants, and oystercatchers. Macronectes were cruising overhead. And out to sea, Just past the breakers, were ~~southern right whales~~. Later in the morning we stopped about 3Km from the road for an hour, and 6 pairs of 1 adult

Punta Norte to Caleta Valdez, Peninsula Valdez, Prov de Chubut, Argentina

24 October cont'd

plus one young) passed by us headed south less than 50 yds off shore (just on the other side of the breakers - it was very impressive). I do not know how deep the water is at that point, tide was high. As I was photographing near camp a flock of 30 or so White rumps landed ~~at the~~ on the pebbles at the top of the tidal edge. A solitary white-rump was also seen with a solitary Charadrius falklandicus within a few feet of a bull elephant seal. Also heard one Baird's flycatcher, also solitary. Driving south toward Caleta Valdez we saw seedsnipes (Thinocorus rumicivorus) along the road, beginning less than 500 yds from where we camped. They fly like sandpipers, which was how I first recognized them as Charadriiformes, but their ground movements are ~~alot~~ different. We also saw a minimum of 8 flocks of baby lesser rhea, all accompanied by a solitary adult, plus 20-30 adult rhea occurring singly or in small groups of up to five individuals. The largest group of chicks had 20+ individuals - they are very hard to count as they run through the scrub; the smallest ~ 5. Each flock was composed of individuals of fairly uniform size, but there was variation between flocks, with the smallest chicks being less than 1.5" (the adult had to wait for them while fleeing from us) and the largest being perhaps 3', (running well). 10-15 Guanaco spread thinly along the road, especially toward Caleta Valdez. A flock of 35 Golden Plovers at the head of the caleta. At this point we suffered a flat tire, and possessing only one spare, we opted to head directly to Puerto Piramides.

Golfo San Jose, 16 Km N by road from the intersection of Prov. Rtes #2 and #3, Peninsula Valdez, Prov de Chubut, Argentina

After another flat tire we decided to remain at the site where we had camped the night of Oct 22. We arrived at 1900 hrs, and found that the flocks of 400+ COR were again roosting near the camp site. I disturbed them in order to erect nets. But that evening, just as visibility was fading to night levels, I walked along the beach and found that the birds were spread out along the ~~sea~~ interface between Salicornya and beach. Netting was therefore unsuccessful. The question remains as to whether or not they were there because I had disturbed them earlier, or whether movement to this area after dusk was typical. Recall that

Journal

Golfo San Jose, ~16 Km N of intersection of Prcial Rtes #2 + #3, Peninsula Valdes, Prcia de Chubut, Argentina

24 October cont'd — a similar pattern was probable the last night that we camped here, with the birds leaving the roosting area near camp at dusk, and with only a few solitary ones flushed from the Salicornia during the night. Whales were very active. 5 Guanaco on road in.

25 October — Up at 0530 to move net out to Salicornia-beach interface. 400 WR seen but they are more in Salicornia this morning. 0630 big flock, over 100, seen foraging in Seli. The birds became much more spooky as the morning progressed, and it seemed to be more a factor of time of day rather than my activities. 0815 nothing netted, most to WR in Salicornia with some along beach. 3 Golden Plover. Many Chan. falklandicus. Collected a WR (033)

21 Km W of Malaspina by road, Prcia de Chubut, Argentina

There have been isolated ponds of water along the road during the last 20 Km. Vegetation very sparse; sage-juniper like (but I don't know what the local equivalents are). We are driving on a 1500' (etc.) plateau 40 or so Km inland. At this particular pond there were five Baird's Sipiper foraging along the edge. I collected one (034).

Puerto Deseado to San Julian via Prcial Rte #1201, Prcia de Santa Cruz, Argentina

27 October — Least seedsnipe abound. Many rhea (none with chicks) and substantial numbers of guanaco. A few tawny-throated dotterels, Oreopholus ruficollis, and Ch. falklandicus in most sandy places when I looked. The road traverses steppes cut by occasional river valleys (e.g. Rio Deseado) and arroyos. When it is not descending into or ascending from one of these, then the road crosses a flat plateau, barren except for short non-grass vegetation. I don't know what the ground cover is. Most of the time there is only very short branches of a needled plant, along with a few other equally short forms. This is broken by patches of a stubby juniper-like bush, often several feet high. Wind is strong, and continuously out of SW. Cold, a few sprinkles. We also are passing occasional ponds of varied size, some up to several hundred meters across. At the larger ones one to several flamingos are usually present, as well as pairs of upland geese.

Journal

Puerto Deseado to San Julian via Prov. Rte 1201, Prov. de Santa Cruz, Argentina.

27 October cont'd

On two of these I have seen flocks of peeps. The first ones were ~~too~~ too far away to ID. the location was about 85 Km S of P. Deseado. At the second were Baird's, 60 Km N of San Julian. I collected one (035) (1240 hrs). The pond was brine, containing brine shrimp. Charadrius falklandicus were also present.

San Julian to Rio Coyle via Rte. #3, Prov. de Santa Cruz, Argentina

28 October

112 Km S of San Julian we stopped by a saline pond in the road. 2 Anas bilatrix, 2(♂+♀) Upland geese, 5 baird's sandpipers. ~~The first~~ I collected one baird's (036). The fields are covered with least seedsnipe in this area. We camped at a point just south of Rio Coyle, 98 Km N of Rio Gallegos in a field to the west of the road ~~occupied~~ with ~~and~~ at least 4 species of bird: least seedsnipe, ~~[illegible]~~ tawny throated dotterels, rufous collared sparrows, and at least one ~~[illegible]~~ furnariid. The least seedsnipe were by far the most common bird, especially conspicuous because of their displays. The fields are on the southern, upper edge of the valley of the Rio Coyle - it is sloping gently to the N/E, covered very patchily by a juniper-like brush, the tallest being 3½'-4' high. In between the brushes is a grass, but mostly bare dirt. Temperature during the evening got down to 2°C; no wind at sunset or during the night. Cloud cover cleared. The river itself, which we crossed about 20 min before ~~Rio Coyle~~ R. Gallegos camping, has created a very broad and wide valley with a considerable amount of exposed water, most of it flowing. Along the river is much lower green grass. There are Baird sppers there, as well as Magellanic oystercatchers, upland geese (by the hundred, both in pairs and in flocks) and several species of duck.

Rio Coyle to Rio Gallegos via Rte #3, Prov. de Santa Cruz, Argentina

29 October

Cold, cloudy and windless at dawn. Least seedsnipe are displaying all around camp. Zonotrichia singing. At 0845 a light wind came up. For a considerable

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Rio Coyle to Rio Gallegos, by Rt. #3, Provincia de Santa Cruz, Argentina

29 October cont'd

distance we kept track of #'s of least sandpiper + dowitchers seen per km. (see species account. 8 Baird's seen flying just after leaving camp. The vegetation along the route changes from that seen near our camp, to one of short grass w/no bushes. Then bushes reappear again once the descent into the Rio Gallegos valley begins.

Rio Gallegos to Monte Aymond (Argentine border w/Chile), via Rt #3, Prov. de Santa Cruz, Argentina

1800 left Gallegos and drove south, sampling sandpipers before

Oct

light wind, 40% cumulus cloud cover. The sandpipers were denser along this stretch of road. In addition, we saw 3 [illegible] birds. The habitat here became much grassier - bunch grass and even fields that look like bluffy sides. Igneous rock. The geologic formations are impressive in this area, many high mesas sprouting from broad rolling fields. There are also pockets of water, many small roadside puddles plus a few large depressions. One of these depressions was 100' deep, deep and roughly circular, and perhaps 0.5 miles across. Water in the depth of the basin appeared shallow. Baird's seen along road in puddles, especially near the border (see spec. account). At one pond the sandpipers appeared to be spaced out along the edge of the pond. About 50 sandpipers seen altogether along the road. Baird's in every pond.

30 Oct

Camped ~25 km N of border off a side road leading to Rio Chico. In the morning we were surrounded by least sandpipers displaying and [illegible], -throated dotterel. On the way to the border we saw 1 Baird's landed in fields, foraging. Also flock of 20 on a puddle (see sp. acct.) and the "upland" Baird's was with 2 t-thr. dotterels in habitat which was buff-breasted sandpiper like. The presence of buff-necked ibis in these grassy fields, after first having seen the birds in palm-swamps in the Paraguayan chaco, was startling. Their ringing cries were always present through the morning as groups flew overhead.

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30 Oct
cont'd

Monte Aymond, ~~[illegible]~~, to the ferry at Primera Delgada on the Straits of Magellen, Prcia de Magellenes, Chile

Immediately upon leaving the border guard (after a nerve-wracking hour with the Chilean military) we started seeing Lesser Rhea. The change was dramatic, as we saw none between Rio Gallegos and the border. Whereas within 100 yds of the border we saw the first small group, and we continued to see them sporadically all the to within 5km of the ferry. At least 20 all told. The only perceptible obvious change in the habitat was the increase in the amount of standing water (with perhaps a thickening and greening of the grass). Numerous puddles - "pectoral puddles" - with both W-R and Baird's in most of them. The puddles are not very big, a few ft. across, and by the side of the road. Grass emerging along the edge of the ponds. Southern Lapwings also present. Magellanic oystercatcher present. Not so many seedsnipes. We arrived at the ferry at 4:30 pm, just as the tide was beginning to expose a series of rock jetties sticking out into the Straits. Flock of about 100 ÷ more Baird's than WR peeps was foraging 200 yds to the NE from the ferry slip; 2 Sheathbills in there with them. Both species are working around the rocks, at their bases - kelp 8" in diameter. Also present - kelp gulls (100+), dolphin gulls (5-6), rock cormorants (flying in both directions either individually or in small 2-3 groups), & Definite Ph. albiventer and Ph. africeps in mixed small flocks (up to 4 @) - but these cormorants are far outnumbered by the Rock. 2 Magellanic penguins. Many terns - south american, artic or antartic. 10-15 Commerson's dolphins in Strait, less than 1 mile offshore. Their white and black pattern, and small size were very evident even at the distance over which we were viewing them. At the tide's lowest point the ferry boat was completely out of the H2O. The crew gathered several large buckets of mussels from the rocks where the sheathbills had been.

SP Myers
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Journal

Cerro Sombrero ~~to~~ Prov de Magallanes, Tierra del Fuego, Chile by road to Rio Grande, Ter. Nacional del Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

31 October We were forced to stop for the night outside a police station because of an 11 pm curfew in effect in Chile. 41°F outside in the morning, 30% cloud cover, no wind. Left Cerro Sombrero after getting a Salvo conducto from the carabineros at 0820. Few birds seen in first ~~100~~ 50 km, 2 near C.S. 2 ~~near~~ about ~~50~~ 50 km on. The land in this section of Tierra del Fuego is much ~~less~~ denser than I had expected. Bunch grass, many fewer ponds than there had been just across the Straits. The road goes up to ~500', and occasionally passes through a gentle valley in which can be found a ~~small~~ small meandering stream. 72 km from C.S. saw a Caracara gallinago gallinago in the middle of the road, ~~1~~ ~~2~~ Just north of San Sebastian near Tres Lagos we entered a large flat area replete with puddles and lakes. A juniper-like scrub. Baird's in and around the puddles. ~~2~~ 1 (see sp. acct.) Numerous small flocks. Some white rumps (see sp. acct.) there as well, including birds foraging in grass. Seed snipes, upland + ~~2~~ 2 grebe, Cr. falcon. (few) ~~pairs~~ there too. Many WR and B along very small puddle by the road ~~too~~. These birds were not necessarily in pairs, but on dirt strips ~~they were~~ spooked by the car.
Although never saw 100+ Baird and perhaps 50 WR. Unfortunately we could not tarry in this area very long because of the need to get past the Chilean border guard and back into Argentina. Between Monte Aymond and San Sebastian, the two frontera points the road crosses, we had to make our way through 6 military checkpoints. Ate lunch near Campamento Los Chorrillos, 68 Km N of Rio Grande by road. The country here is very hilly, but the hills are on the scale of sand dunes. Short-tuft ~~Bunch~~ grass, sheep. Spooked a flock of ~~2~~ ~25 Baird's. Along the road in this area we saw small groups of WR and Baird's. Flock of up to 50 Magellanic Oystercatchers. South of Rio Grande - flock of 17 peeps. We went to Viamonte in search of

JP Myers
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Journal

Estancia
Cerca Rio Grande to Viamonte, by road, Territorio Nacional de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

31 October — Maurice Rumball and Joseph Tehl who were to leave left a word there for us re their whereabouts. Met Adrian Goodall at the Estancia. 10 Km NW of Rio Grande by road (between Rio Grande and Estancia Maria Bletti), Terri. Nac. de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

1 November — Late in the evening of the 31, Rumball led us to a surprising spot at the edge of a small saline lake where Tehl has been studying the Magellanic plover. From W Wind moderate and steady at 0745. Temp 40's °F. 30 UR By shore on mud flat (see spec. account). I walked 100 yds from car down to Tehl's blind, and after a few minutes search found Pluvianellus — 3 adults. Also a solitary Baird's and 3 Ch. falklandicus — at least 1 incubating. Toward the end of the lake (the SE) the shore becomes much more pebbly, although above the water line back near the car are similar, though less extensive, expanses of mudflat. The track by Tehl's blind is fairly steep, rising 10' in 30'. No vegetation in the water. Tehl tells me that changes in wind strength and direction achieve a quasi-tidal situation here: wind from the west pushes all the H2O down to the east. This could be a very interesting feature of the species habitat on Tierra del Fuego. Across the road from this lake and the car is another lake. There are pups here as well. Also a skua and a kelp gull feeding on a dead upland goose. At 0900 Tehl + Rumball came. We watched a pair of Pluv. socialis feeding their chick, then went back to the parking the blind + caught their chick. One after chick handled (and banded) this morning (see spec. accent).

Estancia Los Flamencos, Km NW from Rio Grande, Territorio Nac. de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

We went with Tehl in two cars in order to check out incubating Pluvianellus in two different salt lakes near the main road house at

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Estancia los Flamencos, 15 km NW from Rio Grande by road, Terr. Nacional del Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

1 November cont'd

Estancia Los Flamencos. My letter of introduction from Paz e hijos may not have been necessary, but it did not hurt. The first nest was beneath on a salt lake of fair size (>1 km long). Wind from WSW and very strong. We were able to park 50' away + 30' above the nest on the edge of a cliff. (see spec. accnt) From the cliff and surrounding other birds visible (we were waiting for the flock to return after having disturbed it with a blind.): pair of crested duck, 60-80 upland geese (particularly away from shore and on steep grassy slopes visible across the lake to the SW), Magellanic oystercatchers, Kelp gulls, 25-30 peeps on far shore (exposed shore as wind to form SW- i.e. they are feeding where the wind has blown the water away) The second nest visited was on a lake approx 5 km further along the road. This lake is much larger and more exposed (i.e. not surrounded by as encircling a set of cliffs as the last), and the wind has moved the water back an incredible distance - several hundred yds of exposed mud are visible. We successfully watched the flock for an hour+ (see spec. accnt). At the edge of the exposed mud- in a thin band going as far as I can resolve (given heat waves etc) which is at least a kilometer, there are peeps. Minimum estimate of 1000, probably more. The band goes from the edge of the H_2O (saline) back ~50' into mud (see spec. accnt). Just before we left the wind dropped noticably. Soon flights of WR were leaving the tide edge, as if the lessening of the wind had allowed the water to return to cover the area where they had been foraging. This may not have been true, as there were still plenty of birds out on the edge foraging. Among those going past us there were no obvious Baird's,

Journal

Rio Grande to Ushuaia, Terr. Nac. del Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

1 November cont'd

1700 left Rio Grande and headed south along the main road to Ushuaia. Stopped North of Punta Maria, ~28 Km S of R. Grande key road we found a Zonibyx modestus nest (+ photographed it and the bird. Several other ♀ seen in the vicinity. MR. and Jehl had told us there were several nesting birds by the road here. 11 peeps seen flying between R.G. and P. Maria. Peeps also landing on tundra-like vegetation near where the Zonibyx was nesting. Between R.G. and Via monte the road runs along the coast except for a long initial detour inland in order to cross the Rio Grande. Upland Geese were everywhere. S of Via monte we entered into deciduous Nothofagus and headed SW inland toward Lago Fagnano. 2 Gallinago gallinago, the 2nd in a meandering stream meadow in the midst of Nothofagus. There also were Turdus falklandicus and a Fire-eyed diucon (an incredible red eye). We camped on a side road heading west

2 November

toward the N side of Lago Fagnano. 3 dominant birds around camp - chilean swallows, behaving as if they were nesting in the Nothofagus, upland geese (unavoidable), and Buff-necked ibis - which flew over calling frequently. In the morning of the 2nd we drove on South toward Ushuaia, stopping briefly at L. Fagnano because I saw 30-40 shearwaters on the water. Sp unidentified - they were dark bellied, with no visible white, either underchin or on bill. Secondary coverts appeared somewhat lighter brown than the rest of the body. Very slender and long wings. Tail looks like that of a sooty shearwater, perhaps a bit bigger. On the lake there was a very strong wind blowing out of the west toward us. The birds were at the E end, visible from a cliff over the lake ~10 km W by road from the ACA Hosteria. ~~Left~~ Further along the road, but still alongside the lake we got an excellent view of a white-throated caracara; it was with a Caracara in the forested area at the side of the road. At Lago Escondido we stopped to photograph ~~the~~ a major peat bog by the road - an amazing number of house wrens in the surrounding forest and the dead trees in the bog. The road goes over a pass to the S of this lake, reaching ~1500'. At this elevation the Nothofagus becomes sparse and gnarled; just above the road here is timber line - in fact, in a few places the road ~~reaches~~ reaches meadow which is continuous with the alpine vegetation. The weather has been temporally ~~quite~~ + spatially extraordinarily variable over a very small scale. The island mountains here have two dominant features - very long and deep E-W valleys -

Journal

Rio Grande to Ushuaia, Terr. Nac. del Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

2 November cont'd

e.g. Lago Fagnano, the Beagle Channel, etc., and smaller valleys running N-S which, ~~appear~~ due to the glacial formation of the E-W-, are largely hanging valleys above the major E-W series. The weather changes while passing from one of the E-W into another, and within 15 min - 30 min it can become quite stormy within a given E-W valley. Weather came from the W. Arrived in Ushuaia in mid afternoon. Steamer ducks, Magellanic cormorants (white necked species), Kelp gulls, Black-browed albatross, skua, a Magellanic penguin. Kelp geese, and more in Bay. We went on toward Lapataia to camp for night. At La Ensenada another white necked cormorant was perched in the trees by the road. Not at all spooky. At mussels farm Beagle Channel for dinner.

Lapataia, Terr. Nac. del Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

3 November

We camped on a side road off the main track between Parque Nacional del Tierra del Fuego (Lapataia), by a river (Rio Pipo (?)) which the road had been paralleling after leaving Ushuaia. Dense Nothofagus, except where logged along lower stretches of river. However, the density is not so great as to be impassable. We walked upstream for ~1 Km from camp in order to fish (no luck). Pair of ashy-headed geese flew past us on the river. No torrent ducks. Many house wrens watched 3 Dark Faced Ground tyrants: at first there were only two birds foraging on ground a third flew in. One of the original pair then began displaying — approached intruder, raising one or both wings to a point (above body) at 45° from horizontal. The original pair "followed" the intruder up stream until out of sight (30 yds), repeating the display. It was impossible to keep the birds straight, so one or both of the pair may have been displaying, although I had the definite impression that only one was. Also buff necked ibis, chimango, chilean swallows, Zonotrichia. ~~Attempted the Hosteria~~ Lapataia. After breaking camp we went to Lapataia and out to Bahia Lapataia; literally the end of the road. 3 species of geese - upland (found a nest with 7 eggs), Kelp, and ashy-headed. Both species of steamer duck. Rufous backed negritos, a cinclodes sp., great grebes, a large flock of buff-necked ibis. house wrens. Back toward the Hosteria watched an immature Nycticorax nycticorax fishing. Overhead there was almost always a Black chested buzzard eagle. 2 Baird's Sandpipers!! on river bank at Hosteria.

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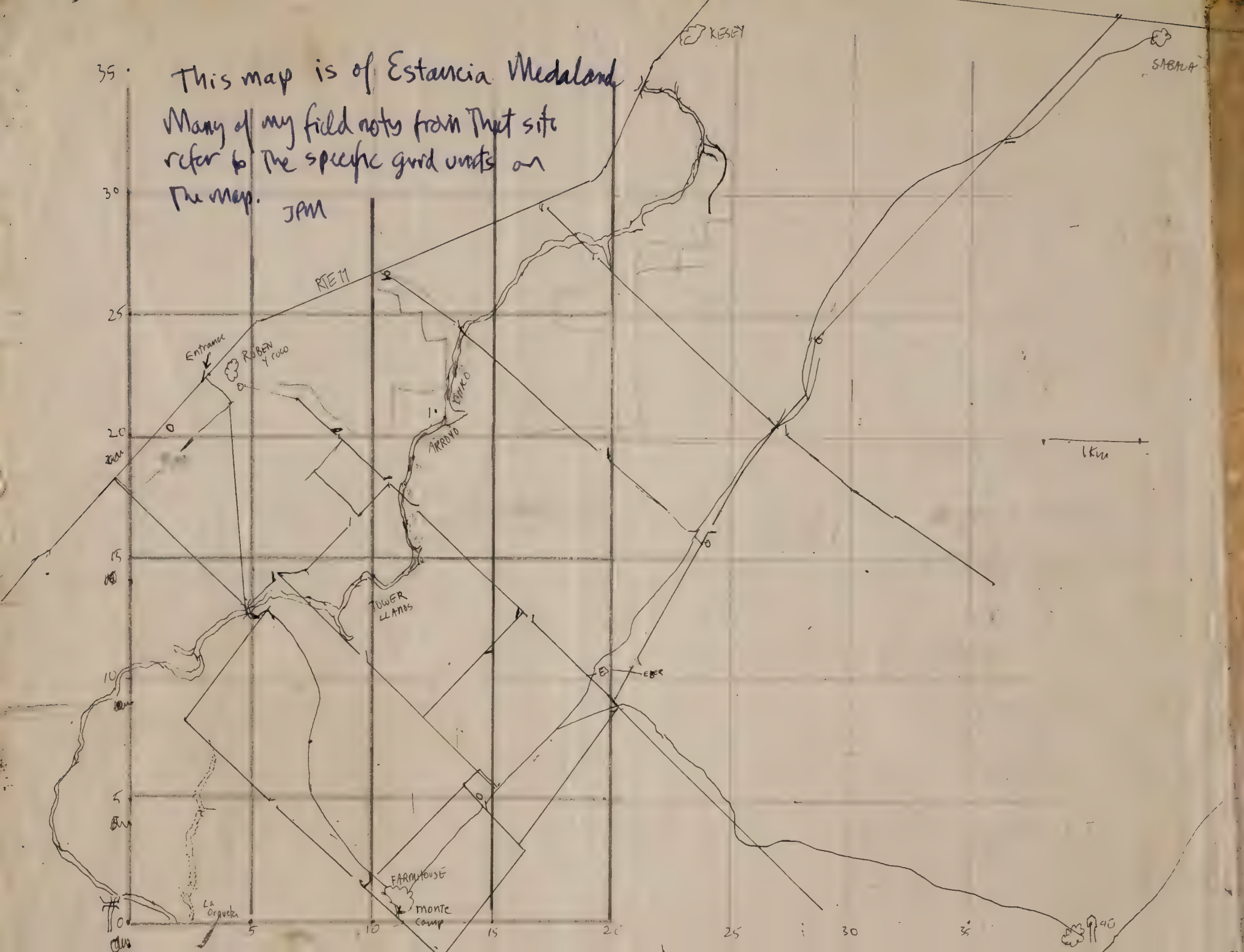
Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

November 3 cont'd

Phalacrocorax atriceps in bay at Ushuaia, many kelp gulls, one dolphin gull, many skua, a black browed albatross, Kelp geese, steamer ducks.


This map is of Estancia Medaland
Many of my field notes from that site
refer to the specific grid units on
the map.
JPM
KESEY
SABALA
RTE 11
Entrance
ROBEN
Y coco
RANCHO
ARROYO
1 Km
TOWER
LLAMAS
EBER
FARMHOUSE
monte
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La
Orquesta
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[redacted]
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Journal

23 November cont'd

Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Ivancho by road, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Arbelaiz was not there, so we drove [redacted] up the road a short distance to await his return. Many of the fields along the road in the immediate vicinity of the entrance to Medland are of the short grass-type which seems to be preferred by buffies and goldens. And in fact the birds themselves are there. Between the entrance and the bridge over Arroyo Chico I found no large concentrations of buffies, but at 3 out of 5 stops made there were a few. Goldens were common, but well dispersed, in all the fields along the road. In this stretch there were approximately 50 buffy and ~200 goldens - a very rough approximation. We stopped at the bridge over Arroyo Chico, the northern limit of Estancia Medland. In the water were 5 Phalacrocorax olivaceus plus some yellowpintails. Many brown headed gulls along the shore, plus a few white-rumps. 2 barn swallows [redacted], 1 cliff swallow, 1 WR swallow, 1 southern martin (which I think was building the nest I found in construction under the bridge). In the field to the NE were well-dispersed goldens but no visible buffies. We crossed Arroyo Chico, and went to a field <2 Km beyond Estancia Arroyo Chico (wildrise on W side of road) where yesterday I had discovered another large concentration of buffies and goldens. They were still there. This area appears (with a cursory glance) to be like the dense buffy area on Medland - short grass, [redacted] little (but some) local relief in the form of gentle shallow depressions. 100's buffies easily visible at a distance from the road. At this point Arbelaiz drove by so we backed back toward the capataz's house to meet him. Without any fuss - without having to produce letters of introduction etc.; he gave us permission to work here. [redacted] We drove followed him through the gate, and then stopped a few hundred meters from the road (along the dirt road) where the track goes down a shallow ridge. Running ~N-S, perpendicular to the dirt road, is a series of small, shallow, and drying ponds. In total they are 300 m - 500 m long, but less than 10 m wide. 3 patches of tule, non over 3 m in diameter, most of the pond sparsely "covered" with a woody plant a few feet high, single stalk and Solanum leaves. this plant appears to grow in areas which are covered by water during the winter and spring but dry up on summer. Thus I suspect that these ponds dry up (except perhaps for small areas around the tule). Anyway, there were 6 + L Yleqs (less than 20 total,) 2 R (<10) and [redacted] ~15 Pectorals. Buffies were present but not abundant on the fields to the W beyond the rise. 2 screamers along the pond, a small flock of pintails in the water. Many [redacted] ~15 Southern lapwings, one cormorant belligerent cattle + a herd of horses. In fact

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Estancia Midland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

23 November cont'd

the livestock have had a very pronounced effect upon shorebird habitat here: along the edge of the pond much of it is heavily trampled by cattle producing a waffled effect. I ~~have~~ had the impression that the Pectorals stayed out of this "formation". On the upland habitat the cowshit is a very obvious feature of the ~~ground~~ microtopography - and potentially of multiple use for buffies and goldens. I have seen both species perched on and in the lee of cowpies. I have seen buffies feeding from them. (and ruddy turnstones & Audubonian golden (wits). It is also possible that individual cowpies serve as local landmarks. We shall see. From these ponds we drove out the dirt road toward the main farmhouse - 6Km from Rt 12. It is much drier now than last month (October 17) None of the puddles by the road ~~have~~ where I collected a Pectoral from have any more water, and even the swamp lagoon 5Km in has noticibly less water. ~~At~~ Arroyo Chico is also lower; then, upon ~~Edward~~ crossing the bridge, we found Yleep, WR, Hgodwits along the mud shore. There was a small flock of buffies by the bridge, ~~but~~ and one just across it, but more further on as there had been last month. 8 rhea among cattle. Maguari storks, coscoroba swans, many shorebirds (mostly Yleep + WR), ducks, coots, common Trudeau's terns ~~storks~~ in the lagoon. We turned around and came back to park by the bridge, driving off the road to the N ~30 m. By this time it was 4pm. An imminense and very dark storm had been ~~rap~~ coming rapidly from the ~~SE~~ SE, borne by strong winds. ~~Harvey~~ We passed the rain in the car — the buffies and goldens that had been in the field when it hit disappeared - they did not leave when the wind augmented but only after the hard driving rain started. But before the rain had stopped (although it did lessen in intensity + size of droplets) birds were back foraging around the car. Despite the fact that more rain appeared imminent and that to both E and W from us it was still coming down hard (the original storm hit in a patchy line from horizon to horizon of cumulus clouds) we decided to walk with the wind along Arroyo Chico to the N. the arroyo ~~wind~~ meanders in a NW-W direction, having cut a broad (~~50~~ 75 yd), ~~deep~~ shallow (10') channel through the flat lands. It appears that in some places a dike ~~has~~ has been worked on, for there are piles of dirt by the bank, providing the only upward relief ~~possible~~ in the area. On the land side of the bank are often depressions, some of which have stands of the woody plant described earlier today, suggesting that it is occasionally under water. Most of the land is short grass ~~field~~, with thistle of varying density. There are a few plowed fields, some with last year's stubble, one done quite recently. No trees, ~~a~~ except for those

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Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

23 November cont'd

around farm houses in the distance. The Arroyo was surprisingly replete with white-rumps spipers. We saw 200-300+ in the 2Km that we covered. Also ~~Ruddy~~ more than 50 (less than 100) Hgodwits. A few Ylegs. Cormorants. 1 Ruddy turnstone (flipping cow shit; I must tell Jehl how struck I was by its resemblance to a Magellanic plover), brown headed gulls, many ducks, a few golden plovers (on the mud), 1 buffy (on the mud). Over the bank and on the field the dominant birds were buffies and goldens - several hundred of each species; we saw them on both sides of the arroyo. Southern lapwings, brown and yellow marshbird, ~~Shrikes~~, Tyrotrichia, Anthus, burrowing owls, also very evident. Surprisingly few nasty little furnariids to confuse me. Saffron finches flocking in thistles along the bank. Another amazing thing were the presence of large and not-very-degenerated shells - both bivalve and gastropod - along the arroyo and on top of the grass. We returned to the car at 1830, cutting directly across the fields. ~~We~~ We then went to the Estancia for a visit + dinner with Sr. Arbelaiz, the capataz Sr. Costas, and the ranchhand living with his family at the ranchhouse, a Basque named Huici. (he is very sharp, with good info + an unusually inquisitive approach for someone here in the campo - he ~~was~~ may be the Mayordomo of the ranch). They told me ~~that~~: 1) that weather like this - windy + scattered intense thunderstorms was not unusual, and 2) that all of the ponds to the W of the ranch house dry during a normally long dry summer, though the Arroyo, and lagoons to the E, remain with H2O. I told Arbelaiz again and in more detail what I wanted to do on the Estancia, stressing that it ~~would~~ would be a year's work, ~~and~~ (I wasn't sure how much he had absorbed this ~~morning~~ afternoon - he seems to be slowing down from age) - he and the capataz said to treat the land as if it were my own. Whoppee.

Arroyo Chico, from Farmhouse Road Bridge to Rte 11 Bridge, Estancia Medland, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

24 November

we hid in the car all morning from the rain and wind. Violent squalls out of the SE every 45 min or so. Buffies and goldens foraging around the car (all camp) list). By noon the ferocity of the storm had lessened, so we started off on foot, following Arroyo Chico to the ~~NW~~ W. The first km was done alongside a fence, not at the Arroyo (we had been over that stretch yesterday). When the fence approached the Arroyo (and ended) we began following the stream banks.

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Arroyo Chico, from Farmhouse Road Bridge to Rte 11 Bridge, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Ivanchu, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

24 November cont'd

We followed the Arroyo ~4 miles to where it goes underneath Rte 11. During the entire trip, there was a strong wind out of the SE, the intensity of which increased during the afternoon, and also during one 20 minute squall at about 2:30. That was the only significant rainfall of the afternoon. However, most of the time 75%+ of the sky was covered by heavy cumulus. We followed the same route back (although cutting corners) arriving at the car by ~1700. The nature of the Arroyo does not change dramatically along the length that we covered (see yesterday's description). The surrounding fields are also fairly similar, most of them being short grass with thistle, or the woody plant described yesterday, or occasionally stands of short bunch grass, some Salicornia. Buff breasted sandpipers, golden plovers, and southern lapwings could be found everywhere on the field. White rumps, goldens, and Hudsonian godwits were scattered along the length of the arroyo. One unidentified Charadrius plover, in winter plumage; the bill was extremely short and I think it was probably semipalmated. Species seen: neotropic cormorant, spotted nothura, Maguari stork, southern screamer, speckled teal, Milvago chimango, Polyborus plancus, southern lapwing, golden plover, semipalm plover(?), WR sandpiper, buff b. sniper, Hudsonian godwit, brown headed gull, burrowing owl, blue and white swallow, WR swallow, [illegible], fork tailed flycatcher, correndera pipit, Pseudoleistes virescens, Molothrus bonariensis, Sicalis sp., Zonotrichia capensis. I was impressed by the paucity of species, esp. land insectivorous.

Farm house road, from Arroyo Chico Bridge to Farmhouse, and then W across country 2 Km, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Ivancho by road, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

After returning to the car (above) we drove E toward the Estancia farmhouse, turning left (N) just at the last fence before the compound. There is a dirt track with wheel marks that goes ~100 m, where we then headed slightly W of N along the E side of the farmhouse marsh, following cowtrails toward the first windmill and gate. Passing by here we continued on N till almost reaching the only tree in this direction (which is by a corral). We turned into the tall bunches of sedge(?) and found a campsite. The wind kept up during the whole late afternoon, although noticibly decreasing in velocity. Cloud coverage dropped to under 50%. Of particular interest along this route was the series of ponds on Farm house Road just before reaching the farmhouse. There we found

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Farmhouse Road from Arroyo Chico to farmhouse, then N across country 2 km, Estancia Medeland, Partido de Buenos Aires, Argentina

24 November cont'd

Ylegp, WR, and Pectorals. A definite suggestion - more than a suggestion - of territoriality in the latter species on these ponds. (see sp. accnt.) Also 13 Stilt Sandpipers. The ponds are in the process of drying - well along in that process, with several feet of caked mud along the periphery; Several types of vegetation grow in a field of the short grass variety, and have several types of emergent vegetation spread patchily along them. The cross country trail we took parallels a continuation of these ponds. But the continuation appears to become a much more substantial body of water (not visible from trail) because of the presence of large water birds - e.g. cormorants, swans, storks etc. Tule, plus the bunch sedge which is so abundant near the sea around here. The trail itself is in a slightly rolling field of short grass, complete with buffies and goldens. Flt summit & sat on the roof of the car and remained there until binoculars were no longer functional (7:30 - 8:45). Goldens to see if I could spot where buds were roosting, or at least the direction. No birds flew east over me. Many goldens flew over to the W, and dropped out of site perhaps a km or further. Over 100 Goldens were feeding! until I could no longer discern their movements, in the field around the car. No suggestion of roosting, except for the fact that they appeared to be more closely packed (and that there were "roosting flights"). Buffies could be seen roosting less than 100 m away in the middle of a small short grass field (see sp. accnt.)

25 November

I got up at 0530 and took a short walk to the NE from camp where I had seen WR flying over the night before. Dawn was clear, windless and cold (34°F). Sunrise ~ 0530. Less than 500 m from camp was a small pond with a large development of tule on its N shore. Nothing looked like prime shorebird habitat, although I thought I heard a melanotos. WR and Ylegp flying overhead. Several spp of duck, Phleocryptes, etc. To the NW of this pond, less than 200 m, was a much larger body of water. Again nothing like prime shorebird habitat. Rollands and Great Grebes. Several Maguari storks along the edges. Agelaius thilius fledglings in the Tule. Several flights of WR, Ylegp, and Hydroprogne. Both Coscoroba + B-necked swans

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2 Km NNE from farmhouse, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Rioja de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

25 November cont'd

Buffins and goldens were present in the short grass fields between camp and the first pond, but not nearly so thick as last night at dusk. During the rest of the day we explored the area between the first and the third (last) windmill N of the farmhouse. Our time was cut much too short because 2 hrs of it went into digging the car out of a mudhole. Between the lowland, tall "marsh edge" areas and upland rolling sand dunes there is a thin strip of short grass field ~100 m wide that runs north from the farmhouse for over 10 Km. The windmills are spaced out along this strip. The diversity of species in the short grass seems definitely enhanced by the proximity of these other two habitats. In addition to the normal five or six insectivores (golden, buffy, Correndera pipit, and lapwing, Pseudoseisto + Mo (Othnyo) other tyrants (Rüskadee, spectacled tyrant, cattle tyrant, and fork-tailed flycatcher) are present. Also Agelaius thilius. Buffies were present in quantities, but not as many as on the other side of the Arroyo. Saw 4 young Screamer chicks, and several (1 batch) spotted Wolfiura chicks. Many armadillo in the sand. The sand dunes are covered by grassy vegetation + bunchgrass this far from the sea, and pitted with many small, and some large, ponds + lagoons. Ivici told me that further out towards the ocean the lakes get deep. (shoulder deep). WR, Pectorals, goldens, Wdcap at most of the ponds we saw. This area warrants more exploration. Several rhea. Returned to same campsite around 0600. During the afternoon it became cloudy and a strong wind developed from the N. Definitely threatening by dusk & collected a golden (041) and a buffie (042) from the short grass field less than 50 m from the car at 2000. During the evening the wind continued to increase (out of N) and clouds moved upon us from S. Started raining by 2200 and continued intermittently and violently until dawn. At some point during the night the wind shifted to ~~NW~~ out of the W, where it was at dawn.

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Farmhouse pond, Estancia Medelaird, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

27 November — this afternoon we gridded the farmhouse puddle, making a grid 26 x 4 units each unit being 5m long, i.e. 130 x 20m. I will extend the grid visually one unit in each direction along the periphery, 140 x 30m. The pond is about 100 yds W of the Medelaird main farmhouse on the south side of Farmhouse road. It is drying rapidly, and I may have to move the grid in several weeks. Water is never more than 10m across, in some places it is over a foot deep, especially toward the S end. Much of it, however, is 1"-2" with a very deep mud base beneath it. I will describe vegetation in it at a later pt and in some detail. The shorebirds we have seen using the ~~pond~~ gridded area, including this afternoon both before and after gridding are: southern lapwing, golden plover, white-rump, pectoral, stilt sandpiper, b-n stilt, G+L Yleg. Other birds: yb pintail, southern widgeon, spectacled tyrant, Riskadee, fork-tailed flycatcher, Correndera pipit, Agelaius thilius, Pseudoleistes virescens, Sicalis sp.

Arroyo chico at Farmhouse roadbridge, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pcia. de BA. Argentina

28 November — Up at 0400 because a wind had come up during the night and was misstreating the tent. At about 10:30 last night, after a dead calm evening, a slight breeze appeared. By midnight it was a strong wind from the W, and with it came a low heavy cloud cover. No rain by dawn, and even though the wind remained the clouds left, giving a clear sky by 0800. At 0430 I heard the first bird, WRumps, this was about 15 minutes after it was apparent dawn was encroaching (i.e. 0435) i.e. a detectable increase in light. Within 5 minutes many goldens were flying by & a few pectorals, and a few WR. Also heard lapwings at this point. At ~ 0440 the goldens reached a peak, at least one heard/5 sec. 0445 I began to be able to see the birds, including one buffie. All flying west. Zonotrichia started at this point. Frequency of goldens dropped abruptly. 0450 1st screamers.

Tower
Arroyo Chico Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

If one follows the Arroyo from the bridge to the N, in less than 500 yds there is an E-W fence. On the other side of the field fence, and to the E of the arroyo, is a large 1.5 x 2 Km field of short grass that I will call the Arroyo Chico Llanos. It is bordered on the N side by another fence (although in the NW corner the Llanos habitat extends beyond the fence & I am limiting the name (Arroyo Llanos) to the field within the fence.) and on the E

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Tower
Llanos, Estancia Miedeland, 35 Km S of Junecho by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

28 November Cont'd

by fields of taller bunchgrass which continue on eastward, encountering within a Km or so the brench sedge (?) habitat in which we camp, near our campsite. We drove around the periphery of the Llanos, looking for buffies and goldens. They are there, in quantity.— Flee can spotted buffies at the rate of ~~3 per acre~~ 3 or 4 every 100 yds or so, and golden sometimes more frequently. Also, Rhea, Anthus sp., Pseudoleistes, Molothrus, Vanellus, Sicalis, Milvago, cows, and horses. I found a place suitable for the prime buffy grid, a site where, with a tower, I can not only see two areas where there were numbers of buffies, but also behind the tower I have a view into the Arroyo, i.e. a WR site. The wind continued from the W all morning and into the afternoon, but no rain, little cloudcover; but the temperature was warm, N65-70. We tried a new approach to buffy spotting — a ride on the roof while Lois drives. Yesterday we had done this using the blind on the roof, and it appeared to work fairly well except for the limited vision. Today, without a blind, the birds spooked, but it was difficult to tell how much of their spookiness was a result of me being exposed on the roof.

Rte 11 Pond, Estancia Miedeland, 35 Km S of Junecho by road, Prcia de B.A. Argentina

Rte 11 Pond is the pond lying beside + to the Say Farmhouse road, less than 500 m E of Rte 11. We came here after the above expedition in order to look for Pectorals, and to see if there was warranted gridding. There were, and it does (see sp. accnt). Also noted spoonbills, G+L Hegs, WR, Vanellus, Stilt sp., G plovers, and smaller things. On the way back to camp, between Rte 11 pond and Arroyo Clico Bridge, I collected 2 buffies (043, 044), one golden plover (045) and 2 Pectorals (046, 047). The buffies and goldens were from the short grass fields along the road. The pectorals were in the Arroyo at the bridge with several Hegs and 3 Wilsons phalaropes. There were at least five more pectorals there (see sp. accnt). Past the Arroyo Clico Bridge, about halfway to the farmhouse, were the 2 rhea. They are frequently there.

By this time it was 1700 hrs. Spent the rest of the day cutting stakes from a large sapling.

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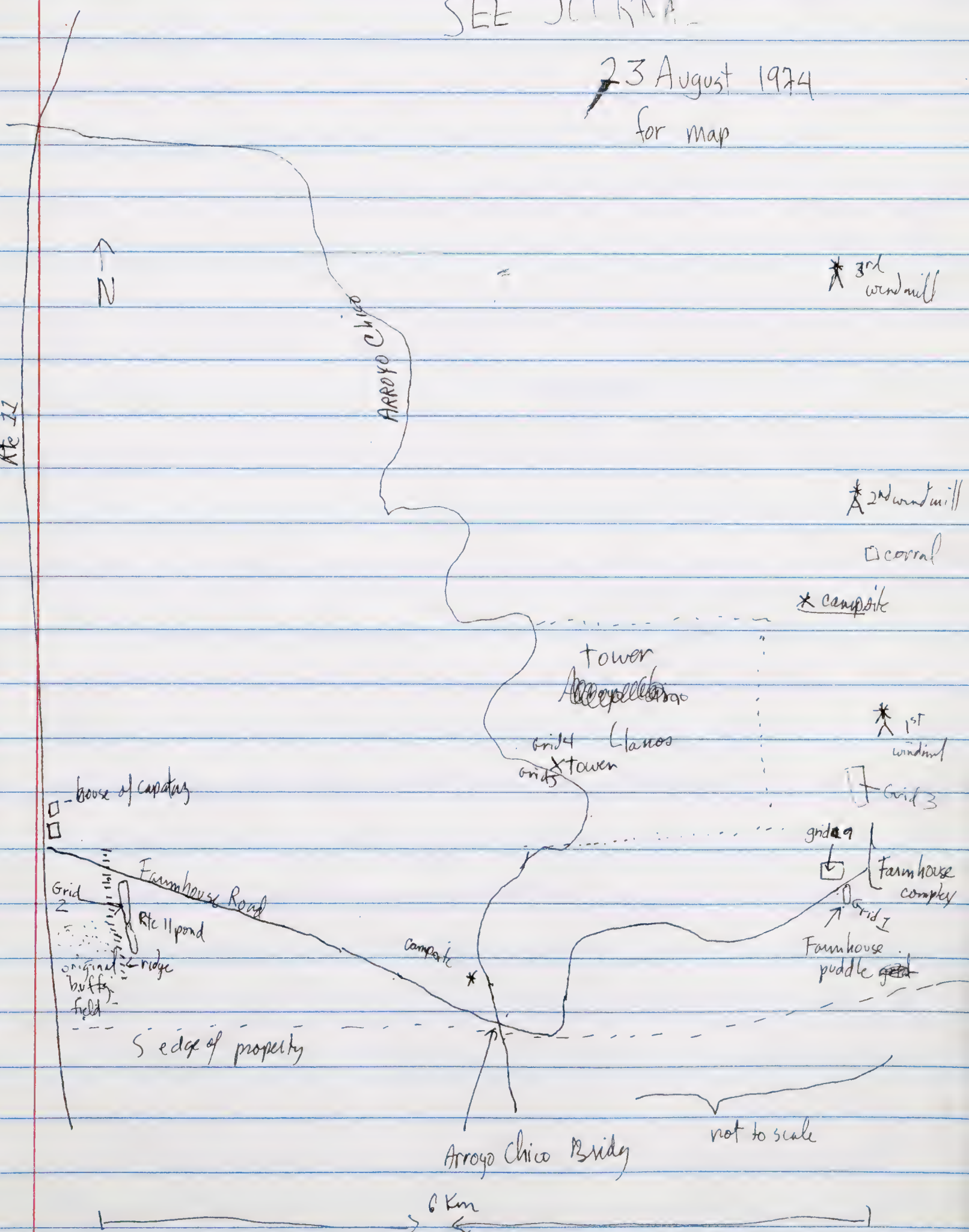
8 November cont'd

Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

By this date I have given names to several important features of Medland & have drawn a rough (not to scale, & only approximate directions) map, to be done with more finesse at a later date.

SEE JOURNAL

23 August 1974
for map



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2 Km N of Farmhouse, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Jvancho, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

29 November

We spent the morning at camp working on skins and skeletons. About 10:30 I happened to look up and see a large flock of (100+) of Swainson's hawks soaring. These were the first of this species that I had seen in Argentina. They continued to pass overhead in large flocks as the morning progressed, with two landing independently (at different times + in different places) in the nearby short grass. No hunting observed. The wind was moderate, continuous, and out of the W. Light cloud cover.

Farmhouse pond, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Jvancho by road, Prcia de B.A. Arg.

2 December

Began taking grid data 0830. The morning had begun cool, (45°), clear, and with a slight breeze at 0530. By 0830 temp had risen to 68°, and continued up until I stopped at 1230 at 79°. Wind grew stronger out of SW and became moderate and steadily noon. Cloud cover never rose above ~20%, all of which was on the horizon. The grid was dominated by a flock of brown-headed gulls (both mature + immature) – 34 ≤ x ≤ 129 in each grid count. There were very few Calidudrius, pectorals (1 on each of 6 grid counts) + 2 WR. This was fewer than I had seen on any previous cursory count. Other shorebirds recorded in counts: Lesser yellow legs, Greater yellow legs, golden plover, BN stilt. Also. White faced ibis, Neotropic cormorant, Common egret, Kiskadee flycatcher, Furnarius rufus, Anthus correndera, Sicalis, Passer domesticus. In addition to species recorded in the counts, there passed on or over the grid between counts: Southern lapwing, Southern screamer, Milvago chimango, WR swallow,. Also, species recorded on the grids appeared and disappeared between counts. This was particularly true for Y legs, which seemed to anticipate my counts, leaving a few minutes prior. 8 counts were run 0835; 0900; 0930; 1000; 1030; 1100; 1130; 1200. The birds appeared to adapt readily to the presence of the car and blind: the blind is on top of the luggage rack; I drove and rode on the roof as Lois drives up to the observation point. The only species which was obviously spooked by our arrival (in that they left) were 2 screamers. The gulls did not even set up a greeting chorus, nor fly, as they certainly would have done had I approached on foot. Judging from the behavior of the birds in the grid, we were not obtrusive.

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Arroyo Chico Bridge, Estancia Medeland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Pcia de B.A., Argentina

2 December cont'd

After the last count we went to Grid #2 at Rte 11 Pond in order to finish placing stakes and painting numbers. Several Pectorals (see sp accent); little else. On the way back to camp we stopped at the bridge over Arroyo Chico on Farmhouse Rd. Looking N in the arroyo I found a flock of LYlegs, Hgodwits, and WR, sitting on the mud by the water. There were ~15 WR (although there may have been more; they were hard to pick out), most of them praising

Rte 11 Pond (Grid 2), Estancia Medeland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Pcia de B.A. Argentina

3 December

At Grid observation post 0600. First sample 0630. Temperature mild 59° with a slight NNE breeze. Cloud on NE horizon ~20%. Stayed taking grid counts until 0830. 8 samples taken at 15 min. intervals. During that time temperature rose slightly to 70°, the wind picked up sharply, and cloud cover increased to 80%, with a low threatening cover coming from N. Totals (format = sp, ave n./count, (range, total # counts)

Pectoral Sandpiper, 3, 2-4 (24); White rump, 0.25, 0-1, (2); LYlegs, 2, 0-5 (16); GYlegs, 0.25, 0-1 (2); Southern Lapwing, 1.25, 0-3 (10); White-faced ibis, 0.75, 0-4 (6); Neotropic cormorant, 0.13, 0-1 (1); Sicalis, 0.13, 0-1 (1); Phleocryptes, 0.13, 0-1 (1). These totals are made without consideration of the possibility that the individuals recorded in different counts may be the same bird. For example, I am fairly certain that no more than 4 or 5 different Pectorals were feeding on the grid during the whole observation period. In addition to species recorded on the graph, within the vicinity were roseate spoonbill, southern screamer, cg golden plover, buff-breasted sandpiper, Carrancho (4 flew over during 2 hrs, each time being chased vigorously by lapwings), chimango, Anthus correndera, Kiskadee flycatcher,

Farmhouse pond (Grid 1), Estancia Medeland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Pcia de B.A., Argentina

4 December

We camped on the observation post. Up into blind at 0530, first sample taken 0600. Temp 62°, clouds 100%, wind strong from NE. It rained lightly between 0400-0515, and continued to sprinkle intermittently while I was in the blind. 3 counts made - 0600, 0700, 0730. Temp dropped 1°. totals (format as above): Pectoral 1, 1 (3); white-rump 2.3, 0-4 (7); Stilt sandpiper, 0.67, 0-1 (2); Golden plover 0.3, 0-1, (1); LYlegs 0.3, 0-1, (1); Brown-headed gull 1.3, 0-3 (4). I was very discouraged by the paucity of shorebirds using the grid this morning. There was only one Pectoral present; I was able to follow

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4 December
cont'd

Farmhouse pond (Grid 1), Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pcia de B.A., Argentina

it almost continuously for the entire observation period (~~see folt~~ and took following data at min. intervals). It may be that the pond has been totally exploited for its food resources - or at least to such an extent that other feeding areas are now more profitable. Along this line, it is obvious that the pond has dried considerably even since we put in stakes. Perhaps concurrent drying of other areas has exposed new ~~invertebrates~~ feeding areas (Cowbird). Whatever the cause, the birds are ~~not~~ here in the numbers that they were when we decided to grid the area. Unless this changes, I see little point in continuing to work Grid 1.

Windmill campsite, 2 Km N of Farmhouse, Est. Medeland, Pcia de B.A., Argentina.

Returned to here after abandoning Grid 1. We had not been here for over 24 hours because of the different campsite last night and yesterday's trip to Mar del Plata. My funnel trap, placed in the field near the camp where goldens feed + night and buffies roost in the evening, has been destroyed by cattle. They have proven to be a nuisance. Not only do they behave unpredictably when confronted in the fields - usually scaring birds -, but for e.g. they come and rub their heads against the car while I'm sitting on top, and have destroyed many stakes in both the grids (by eating (!) and by scratching). Zonotrichia feeding juvenile. At ~1000 we started back toward the Farmhouse. En route, it began to rain hard.

Farmhouse Eucalyptus grove, Est. Medeland, Pcia de B.A. Argentina

We set up camp within the grove so that I could cut stakes and have a shelter to retreat to during rain. I used the shelter most of the afternoon, because of continuous rain. By ~2000 it had rained 60 mm (Huici has a rain gauge). Wind by 1000 had swung to ESE, and was very strong - branches in Eucalyptus blowing down. Around 1700 there was a hiatus in the rain, and I made a cursory exploration of the grove. It is less than 500 m x 500 m, largely Eucalyptus with ~~some~~ dense stands of poplar ~~poplar~~ along the S and E borders. There are several species of birds within the grove that I never see on the grasslands, as well as species nesting in here which forage out in the open. It would be very interesting to compare avifauna in Eucalyptus stands here with those in US, esp. in so far as how they divide up the resources. I will provide a ~~more complete~~ list of

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Farmhouse Eucalyptus Grove, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho, Prcia de B.A. Argentina

4 December cont'd

species within the woods here as soon as I identify some of the tyrants. During ~~this~~ today's rain several wide+ deep puddles have appeared within the grove, suggesting that ~~there~~ a significant change in the shorebird habitat ~~in the area~~ may be in progress.

Farmhouse pond (Grid 1), Estancia Medeland, Prcia de B.A., Argentina

5 December

0700 walked from the campsite in the Grove out to Grid 1 during a break in the rain. During the night it continued to rain, accumulating 10 mm more. Grid 1 has been almost completely covered with water, the pond now refilled to the edges of its mud banks. ~~Yesterday~~ Yesterday at dawn it was broken into 3 ~~discontinuous~~ puddles separated by stretches of dry or almost dry mud. This morning it is a continuous pond; all of the muddy areas where Pectorals and WR were foraging previously have been covered. Along the road in this stretch between the farmhouse and the ~~pond~~ first gate, the many puddles that had dried or were almost drying have filled to the point of overflowing. Stretches of grass are an inch deep in water. And this morning the rain is continuing, although intermittently. Hvici tells me that last year of 23, 24 and 25 December there was a similar storm that dumped considerable amounts of rain. There are shorebirds foraging in the newly inundated grass areas. Nothing on the grid, but along the edges is a flock of WR, a bit about ~~6~~ 30m to the W in a small puddle (grass lined) is a ~~go~~ Pectoral, a WR, and a Ylegs. In another more extensive but newly formed puddle is a flock of WR, Ibis, Agelaius, Kiskadees.

500 ~~feet~~ m W of Farmhouse, Estancia Medeland, Prcia de B.A. Argentina

1500 we walked W from the farmhouse toward the windmill. Drizzling, the precipitation driven hard by a strong SE wind which continues unabated. From Farmhouse road all the way to the windmill is now an almost continuous puddle, up to 100 m wide in some places, and reaching ~~6~~ 0.3 m in depth. There are WR, Ylegs (mostly lesser), Pectorals, Stilt Snipers, ~~and~~ Golden Plover, ~~and~~ WF Ibis along the length, distributed unevenly. A few spots, one in particular at the NW end of the biggest pond in the series (on the downwind side) was notable for the ~~number~~ number of WR

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5 December
Cont'd

500 m N of Farmhouse, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

there - well over 100. It was on this site where most of the birds were concentrated, though other areas also had moderately spread birds. But I was struck by the question as to why so many of the ponds - apparently identical - lacked any birds. It may have been related to the wind: bugs were floating on the surface, and being blown downwind. The smaller ponds may not have had enough surface area to "catch" sufficient numbers of bugs in order to make the downwind side have high enough densities (or at least reach the detectable/preferred densities reached on the, the longest, stretch of pond.) to make foraging energetically feasible (or whatever). After seeing the effect of the recent rains on the habitat here, we decided to put up a grid quickly, hopefully to be used tomorrow. We returned to camp, picked up stakes, and within the hour had a ~~4~~ 4-unit grid up and painted. I remained in the vicinity to watch the WR flock until 6 pm. (see sp accnt) Drizzle continued through the afternoon, as did the wind. One notable thing about the behavior of all of the shorebirds was ~~their~~ their fearlessness. Even the goldens tolerated my presence, and the WR almost ignored me completely. Ibis were much less skittish too, but spoonbills were normal (it seemed). This grid is 3a.

6 December

Walked from camp in Eucalyptus to newly placed grid at 0600. One 5 min drizzle, but otherwise the storm appears to be breaking. Clouds higher, wind intensity decreased and shifted more to S. Temp 59° at 0700. Birds within the grove much more vocal this dawn than yesterday. Out in the field the birds are considerably spookier. This was especially apparent with goldens and WR. A flock of shorebirds was feeding in almost exactly the same location as yesterday afternoon. Appeared to be fewer, perhaps 50, WR. Nothing on the grid. G+L Yleg. spread along most of the pond between Grid 3 and Farmhouse Road, where I walked to from Grid 3. WR's in patches along the ponds, no big concentrations as yesterday. 8 BN Stilts. Three were WR along the edges of Grid 1, but they flew before I got within 50 yds. A few pectorals along the edges of the ponds. At 0630 I saw the first patch of blue sky that had appeared since Monday dawn (3 December). However, by 0730, back at camp, the weather turned again, and producing drizzle. We went out at 0800 to place two more 16-unit grids: Grid 3, spaced along a N line from Grid 3a

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6 December cont'd.

500 m N of Farmhouse, Estancia Miedland, 35 Km S of Travelin by road, Provincia B.A., Arg. Spaced at 150 m intervals. The new grids are 3b & and 3c, the latter being the northernmost. They are both similar in habitat structure to 3a, with water covering short grassy field. Some cinnagillo. 3b is at the S end of a pond, 3c at the north. One flock of 7 pectorals was on the 3b before placement.

7 December

Short light rain beginning 0500. Up at 0530. Within ½ hr the sky began to clear, and by 0730 cloud cover was less than 80%. Walked with Maurice Rumbold and Christopher Leagby (who appeared yesterday afternoon) out to Grid 3. Considerable numbers of ducks flying southerly. Also many shorebirds in air. Rumbold was able to point out several birds I had not identified, especially in the pampas grass habitat to the east of the Eucalypt grove, Pseudocolaptes flavicauda (wartling doradito), Phacellodomus striaticollis (Freckle (cracked spinetail), an unidentified Athenes, Rallus sanguinolentus (Plumbeous rail), Rhynchotus rufescens (Red winged tinamou). On the ponds in which Grid 3 is located were sizable flocks of shorebirds foraging, primarily WR and Lyelegs, but including Pectorals, Greater Yleg and Golden Plover as well.

1 Km W of the tower Arroyo Chico Bridge, Estancia Miedland, Prov. de B.A., Argentina

Rumbold carried us and stakes for the grids near the tower on Arroyo Chico via his car. A small flock of WR was on the Arroyo shoreline, dispersed evenly in a line along the edge of the water. In addition there were WR, a Hudsonian Godwit, and a Lg. Golden Plover. Lg. Yellowlegs down to the S at the curve of the arroyo, where the Arroyo broadens and becomes shallower, providing more extensive habitat. The WR by the tower appeared to be behaving territorially, with territories ~ 3 m long (some longer). In the llanos to the W of the arroyo were many Buffies, most of them foraging in small flocks. On the W end of the llanos, a small pond had been created by the recent rain. WR, Pectorals, and Baird's (10+) were foraging within, also Lyelegs and Golden Plover. The southern end of the pond was extensive enough to have attracted Coscoroba swan. There was considerable shallow water at this end of the field, with many acres of grass an inch or more deep. After Rumbold left, Lois + I placed stakes on Grid 4, the many Buffy grid beneath the tower.

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Tower Llanos, 1 Km N of Arroyo Chico Bridge, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Ivanchos by road, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

7 December (cont'd) 3 buffies were on the grid within fifteen minutes after finishing staking. We walked from the tower due east across the Llanos. Baird's were still foraging along with WR and pectorals in the new pond. From here we went S to the farmhouse road, then E to the Estancia. The most striking thing about the walk was the amount of grassy field (esp. that ~6" high) which was inundated by several inches of water.

Estancia Medland, Pvcia de B.A., Argentina

8 December worked with Lois + Hvici on grid and tower today. A thunderstorm came up at dusk, dropping 20 mm of rain on the already soaked countryside.

9 December During the evening another storm hit, leaving 22 mm. (worked on tower again during the afternoon)

Farmhouse to Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, Pvcia de B.A., Argentina

10 December Last night's storm having arrived this morning early ~0800. At 0930 I left camp in the Eucalypts, and walked along the road until ~ SSE of the tower, when I turned and headed directly toward the tower. The road was so thoroughly soaked that it was difficult to walk. The fields along the road are very wet; much of their surface is covered by standing puddles of water. In the fallow plowed field between the road and a fence to the N, I spooked Pectorals + WR from the puddles, and Golden and Buffies from slightly higher area. Then an large flocks of golden flying, more so than on other recent days. The birds are very spooky; I was unable to approach any sandpipers. Once at the tower, I spent some time nailing in burlap sacks along the frame, to provide some sort of blind. Only a few buffies came to the grid area during this period. Also many fewer WR along the Arroyo than there had been in the last few days. 2 Ch. falklandicus on the shoreline. The water is at least an inch higher, covering 1'+ more horizontal area on the shoreline. The WR decrease could be a result of my several days activity around the blind, or perhaps due to the increased depth of water in the Arroyo, covering best foraging area. In addition, the latter factor could interact with the greatly increased amount of surface water all over the Estancia, producing large areas per WR (and Pectoral) foraging.

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Farmhouse to Tower Llano, Estancia Medland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

10 December (cont'd)

At 1430 it became apparent that another storm was going to hit from the S, so I packed up and began walking back. Rain caught me about 200 m N of the road; because of the lightning, and my lightning rod of a back pack, I settled down in near a fallow corn field to wait it out. I had spooked Pectorals, WR, Buffies, and Golden just before the rain started. When it hit, huge flocks of Golden began appearing, several hundred birds visible in the air at once. During the peak of the storm few were flying (although there appeared to be another burst of birds when the hail (up to 1 cm diameter) began). It rained for 35 minutes, after which the strong S wind continued but the clouds were much lighter. As soon as it stopped raining, more flocks of shorebirds – especially WR, Golden, and Buffy. These were the largest flocks of shorebirds I had seen since arriving on Medland; certainly the largest for several months. Flocks were always visible in the air, several at a time, most of them headed S away from the storm. Some of the birds were not as spooky as they had been earlier in the day. (Certainly they were not the same individuals) – a small group of WR allowed me to approach within 15 feet. After this rain (I do not know the quantity), the land is now ~~soaked~~ soaked. However. Grid 1 (which I passed on the way back) is almost entirely in water. The area to on the SE corner, which had been dry grass, is now shallowly submerged – the tops of the grass are sticking out. Keys were in their forging. Several of the stakes – which after the 3" storm were just barely out of the water, are now lost from site. These recent rains have had a pronounced effect upon the shorebirds on Medland. I hope that the result will be to allow me to see a repeat of the diurnal pivots through which they pass upon arriving here in August, when the land is equally (or more) covered with water. We shall see.

Grid 3, 500m N of Farmhouse, Estancia Medland, Prcia de B.A., Argentina

12 December

Walked from camp to Grid 3, arriving just before 0700. Slight wind from N with mostly clear sky. Temp ~60°F. Cow path leading from farmhouse

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12 December
cont'd

Grid 3, 500m N of Farmhouse, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pvcia de B.A., Argentina
is now passable in auto, the first time in a week plus. Much of the surrounding grass, especially in
hollows ~~[illegible]~~ is in ~~[illegible]~~ shallow ponds of water. On the major N-S pond along which Grid 3a-b-c
is spaced there ~~was~~ a large flock of shorebirds, mostly between 3a-b and 3c. In the flock
were LY legs (100+), G-Y (30), WR (<30 - most near 3c, on the S.W. west side at the edge
of the lagoon), Pectorals (50+). On the way out lapwings did their thing, harassing me
incessantly. They are a definite obstacle to my study, as the other shorebirds appear to pay
attention to the mobbing of the lapwings, and spook. This was the major problem this morn-
ing. Birds were on the grid, but on all but two instances they began giving alarm notes for
lapwing before I could get close enough to sample. L + G legs are much spookier than Pectorals.
As I was concentrating on approaching the grids, especially near c, several times I spooked small
groups or solitary Pectorals out of tiny puddles, a few feet across with no open water -
just half-submerged grass. Also 3 Gallinago g. And one flock of ~30 Pectorals.
The actual counts on the grids were not that profitable, despite the abundance of shorebirds in the vicinity.
I am sure that, had I not been spooking them, and had I remained ~~in~~ longer, eventually in all the
birds flocks of y legs would have appeared. The actual tallies: ~~[illegible]~~ 2 samples of each
subgrid (3a, 3b, 3c,) between 0715 and 0815. 3a: LY legs ave n/count 0.5 range (0-1) total 1; Killdeer 0.5(0-1)1;
spectacled tyrant 0.5 (0-1) 1. 3b LY legs 1.5(0-3) 3; Pectoral 0.5(0-1)1; Spectacled tyrant 0.5(0-1)1.
3c: LY legs 2 (2) 4. On 3a the birds seemed most sensitive to my presence, especially
for the second ~~sa~~ sample. 3b was least sensitive. Other shorebirds seen flying near grids -
wilson phalarope, golden plover.

Tower Llanos and Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, Pvcia de B.A., Argentina

At approximately 1200 we drove out to the tower in order to grid areas on the adjacent arroyo. No
bluffies visible on ~~the~~ Grid 4, but many between the road and the tower. Large flocks of golden
still evident, and we scared pectorals out of puddles in the fallow cornfield. There is
still much standing water in the Llanos. Cows were all around the tower and on the grid, scratching.
Our ~~activities~~ activities there may have increased the attractiveness of the immediate area to cattle
because we have provided convenient scratching posts. The cattle obviously use them, as the

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12 December cont'd

Tower Llanos and Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Prov. of B.A., Arg.

stakes have cattle hair on them, some are knocked down, etc. Also the guy wires for the tower are well used, and now are quite loose. One serious question, if indeed the cattle are now attracted to the area, is what effect their increased presence will have on the buffie and golden usage of the grid area. From the tower we drove back out to the road, across Arroyo Chico, and then, off the road, back to a point on the Arroyo immediately across the Arroyo from the tower. On the way we passed through a series of fields replete with goldens and buffies, more so than I had seen on these areas previously (23, 24 November). More water was present in isolated puddles, although there was not as much surface area covered as in the Tower Llanos. The fields also had a more ragged appearance, with many short (6") weeds protruding above the short-grass base. Several flocks of pectorals spooked, as well as a few WR. We gridded the Arroyo shoreline for 275 m (1 stake/5 m) across from the tower. WR were concentrated on the shore in an area well trampled by cattle, in the vicinity of stakes 50-55. I noted definite differences in the bottom consistency while diving stakes: the area near 50-55 became less sandy, and more muddy, than those areas farther to the S. When we finished this grid, it appeared likely that there would be more rain. The morning's N wind was shifting toward the W, and low clouds filled the sky, some quite dark. Returned to farmhouse for stakes (a few rain drops fell), and then back to Tower Llanos for more gridding: Grid 6, 100 m S of tower, 75 x 100 m, with 25 x 25 m units, i.e. 3 units x 4 units. We decided to try units this large in order to make it possible to cover more area. We then drove N along the Arroyo in order to begin placing the WR transect: 100 m gridded @ 1 stake/5 m, with intervals between grids of 200 m. 10 grids in total. On the way upstream we came to a slightly lower area in the Llanos, about 300 m from the tower, which was full of shorebirds. The "lowland" was ~ 75 x 100 m, very bumpy (small shallow depressions, 6"-1' across with many 3"-7" high mounds alternating with the depressions, with many of the depressions water-filled. Puloratos and WR - feeding, and a few buffies - feeding, 30+ preening were in this area. The bumpy terrain ended abruptly and became a smooth expanse of short-grass llano, continuous with the Tower Llanos. Many buffies and goldens foraging here (i.e. >20 buffies.) In this small area the separation between upland and lowland species was fairly clear-cut.

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Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho, by road Pvcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

13 December — Awoke at 0510 to sound of thunder. Rain began ~15 min later, and continued for 1 hr +. Clouds breaking by 0930.

Grid 3, ~~Estancia~~ 500m W of Farmhouse, Estancia Medeland, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

16 December — Walked out to grid 0700 to finish painting stakes placed 14 December. temp 55, slight NW breeze, no clouds. Shorebirds all over the grids. Surprisingly there were no WR, but 40+ Pectorals, 100+ LY legs, a few golden plover, and ~5 Gallinago gallinago. One flock of ~50 Wilsons phalarope was feeding about 200m S of the SE end of the grid. Water level in the grid is down perceptibly, much more grass showing above the water. In the main marsh to the W, across a row of branch sedge, another flock of 30 shorebirds, largely G + LY legs with 3 Stilt Sandpipers was foraging on a mud flat which now, since the rains, has become overgrown with a duckweed-like vegetation. One Himantopus flying over the grids; a flock of W-f. ibis. (there has been no rain since 13 December.)

During the day we entertained the wife of Arbelay, the Estancia's owner. At 1930 Lois let me off with netting equipment beside Grid 36, and I had the nets up within ~10 minutes. A large thunderhead to the S loomed light levels prematurely. Very little ~~[illegible]~~ was flying after 2000. A few G+LY legs narrowly missed the nets, as did a pair of Golden Plover. I caught nothing by nine, and after almost netting a short-eared owl that was foraging over the Grid 3 area I furled the nets and headed back to camp (2115). I was very surprised by the paucity of flying shorebirds. Perhaps the storm had an effect, or perhaps this area → Grid 3 is typically depauperate at this time of the evening. Prominent birds flying overhead between 19:30 and 2115 were Nycticorax (30+ in small groups + solitary), Ajaia ajaia, Vanellus, Tringa. On the way back I stopped by Lee Spear's to learn where I've been photographing — the young have become juvenile; I tried to catch them by spot lighting, but when I got to within 4ft they flew.

17 December — I had planned to return to the nets at 0400 and try again. But when I awoke up, it was slightly later, ~~[illegible]~~ and raining (total = 2mm). So I stayed. At 0800 sat and picked up the net. 10+ Pectorals in 3b, a flock of LY legs there too. One Gallinago. The owner had left the net alone, but I had caught several species of beetle (ranging up to 2" in length, one which ejected a caseic smelly substance with a hiss when poked) and a dragonfly.

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Arroyo Chico near Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 December contd

Came to tower 1200 to place tornniquetas, repair brid 4, and enlarge it. Most of the surface water through which I've been shidding for the last few days en route to the tower is now ~~good~~ gone. ~~Tower~~ However, as near camp, and around brid 3, the mosquitos in the Llanos are becoming a ~~trial~~ trial. Absence of wind this morning accentuates their ~~nastiness~~ pernicousness. Buffies and golden both very apparent on the Llanos, but neither are traveling in the large flocks seen during the last week. Few WR were on the gridded area visible from the tower in the Arroyo; there were 6 plover, 11 Godwit, 2 Yllegs, Ch. Jabiru, ~~2~~ 2 buffies were bathing. Water in the Arroyo has receded ~ 2 horizontal feet, or several inches of vertical. This is partly due to the absence of the usual S wind, which seems to pile up the water. From the tower, I went back out to the road, W over the Bridge, and then N again to a point on the Arroyo across from the tower, in order to mark observation posts for the linear transect in the Arroyo, brid 8. Lapwings were ~~excessively~~ annoyingly ~~annoying~~; at one time I had 6 hounding me, plus two brown-headed gulls. They will make walking the transect very difficult

Grid 9, Farmhouse Puddle, Estancia Medland, Pcia de B.A., Argentina

Luis drove me out to the observation post, me sitting on top of the car in the blind, at ~~@~~ 1615. Slight rain, moderate - strong wind from NE, very heavy and low clouds, temp = 65°. Took first count at 1630. Car arrival did not appear to affect the birds whatsoever. Two flocks, one of WR, and another of LYL, remained foraging between the car and the grid. A few speckled teal flew, but returned shortly thereafter.

Totals (7 samples) (species, ave #/sample (range), total #): Pectoral, 9.6 (0-20), 67; White-rump, 5.1 (0-20), 36; Micropalama, 0.3 (0-2), 2; L.Ylegs, 6.4 (0-14), 45; G plover, 1.7 (0-5), 12; S. lapwing 0.9 (0-2), 6; S. screamer 0.3 (0-2) 2; Speckled teal, 1.6 (0-5), 11; Kiskadee 0.1 (0-1), 1; Spectacled tyrant, 0.1 (0-1) 1; Cattle tyrant 0.1 (0-1) 1; Anthus correndera 0.3 (0-1) 2. Chimangos (Milvago chimango) and WR swallows flew overhead frequently. ~30 W. thalassinus feeding in (0,-1). A flock of 11 godwit foraged in the 3/2 area between swamples. The Pectorals observed on the grid evidenced no territoriality, although one in the (4,-1) area appears to be so (see ep. accnt). In the -1,1 and -1,2 area a pair of

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17 December cont'd

Grid 9 (Farmhouse Puddle) Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Southern lapwings are raising 3 chicks (less than 1 week old). The lapwings are very aggressive towards other shorebirds, particularly Golden Plover but including WR + Pectoral and devote considerable time to chasing invaders away. The defended area includes at least part of the (0,0) area part of the grid; thus the lapwings behavior is having a pronounced effect on shorebird dispersion in that region. I did have some difficulty in running samples, for two reasons: the size of the grid units is large, and it is difficult to cover a unit well. I am observing from a point at which the scope is so powerful as to be awkward, but where it is still too far to use binoculars. Secondly, the habitat contains some microtopographic relief, enough so that a Pectoral can almost, if not completely, disappear. Also, the duraznillo obscures a few areas of the grid (not completely). At 17:55 there was a large disturbance which caused many of the foraging shorebirds to fly, with alarm calls. I was not sure of the source of the disturbance, but believe it may have been one of the ranch hands running a herd of horses into the Farmhouse area. However, he was several hundred meters away. Because of the alarm calls and the reshuffling, I took an additional sample at 1755. Most of the birds had congregated in the (1-2,0) area.

[One idea which occurred to me while watching the regrouping following the disturbance had to do with the effect that feeding style may have on tightness of flocking. Birds that forage with their heads down may derive considerable advantage from flocking in tight groups, e.g. Micropalama. With my data on dispersion, plus additional material quantifying the % time a bird spends with his head down or up, I should be able to examine this. Additionally, I predict that, if flocking is of anti-predatory significance (not necessarily in the selfish-herd tradition), then territorial -or non-flocking or solitary pectorals, for e.g., should spend more time looking up, i.e. less time foraging, than flocking Pectorals. There are, of course, problems with this - witness Goldens, but the intra-specific comparison may prove fruitful. ∴ I must take foraging behavior data in such a fashion that time available for observation is included in the measurement]. At ~ 1845 major flocks of shorebirds left the grid. the first was mixed, of WR + LY Legs - they flew up from the 0,-1 and (1-2,0) area, landed in a flock near (2, 2-3), and then took off again toward the NNW when 3 G-YL flew over. Pectorals remained in the (3-4, 0) area, but flew less than 5 minutes later. Golden's remained

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Grid 9 (Farmhouse Puddle) Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Prcia de B.A., Argentina

17 December (cont'd)

No calidridines were left on the grid for the following counts although they were in the WR+Pect (-1:0, 1) area, being hassled by the lapwing pair. Small groups of shirds continued to land and fly away on the grid until the final count at 1930. Weather throughout the afternoon was consistently cool (65-62°F), light rain during several of the counts, and a moderate - strong NE wind.

18 December

Up at 0500 and on observation post over Grid 9 by 0530. First reading at 0600. Weather as evening before, light rain, 62°F, mod- strong NE wind. Incident vertical light at 0530 = ~4 foot candles. Rain increased to heavy by 0645, at which point it became impossible to use the spotting scope (rain on the lens) and I retired. 2 samples, totals: [(sp: ave/cnt, (range) total]: - Pectoral, 3.5 (2-5) 7; WR 1.5 (0-3) 3; Micropalama 2 (0-4) 4; GY legs 0.5 (0-1) 1; S lapwing 4 (4) 8 - including 3 chicks/cnt -; Speckled teal 3.5 (2-5) 7; WF Ibis 0.5 (0-1) 1; Anthus correndera 0.5 (0-1) 1. I may have scared off a few GY legs upon arriving, as I drove myself and had to climb into the blind upon arrival, however, the behaviour of other birds (inc. HY legs) on the grid later during the morning suggested that the birds may have left for other reasons: It was not until the second count (0630) that any of them stayed in one area for long. Most landings remained a few moments to minutes, and then flew again. I do not believe it was a reaction to my presence, as there were no alarm notes, nor alarm behaviour (bobbing) typical for birds that have detected me. One territorial pectoral in (3-4, -1)

Grid 3, 500m W of Farmhouse, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Prcia de B.A., Argentina

After rained stopped (not as heavy as first appeared it would be) I had Lois drive me out in the blind to the Grid 3 area. First sample taken at 1300. Cloud cover still complete, with incident vertical light ≈ 5000 FC. Temp = 68°, wind moderate from 30° E of N. Birds received the car and blind well as none flew, nor were we chased by teros. totals (2 of 3a, 3 of 3b):

3a: Pectoral, 6 (5-7), 12; WRump 0.5 (0-1) 1; Micropalama 0.5 (0-1) 1; HY legs 15.5 (15-16) 31; GY legs 1.5 (0-3) 3; Golden Plover 0.5 (0-1) 1; Slapwing 1 (0-2) 2; Spectacled tyrant 1 (0-2) 2; Pseudoleistes virescens 0.5 (0-1) 1.

3b: Pectoral, 3.7 (2-9) 17; HY legs, 2 (1-4) 6; GY legs 0.3 (0-1) 1; Golden Plover 0.7 (0-1) 2; S. Lapwing, 0.3 (0-1) 1; WF Ibis 0.3 (0-1) 1; Spectacled tyrant 1.7 (1-3) 5. I present these totals despite the fact that I am not completely satisfied with the counts. Between samples, I followed

5 12/19

time	page	WR	golden	Vanellus	r. turnstone	Micropalama
0530	94	4	1	0	1	0
0625	96	5	0	0	0	2
1100	91	0	8	0	0	0

6 12/19

time	page	WR	golden	Vanellus	BH gull
0530	94	1	0	0	0
0628		0	1	2	3

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18 December
(cont'd)

Grid 3 (500 Km N of Farmhouse), Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Prcia de B.A., Argentina

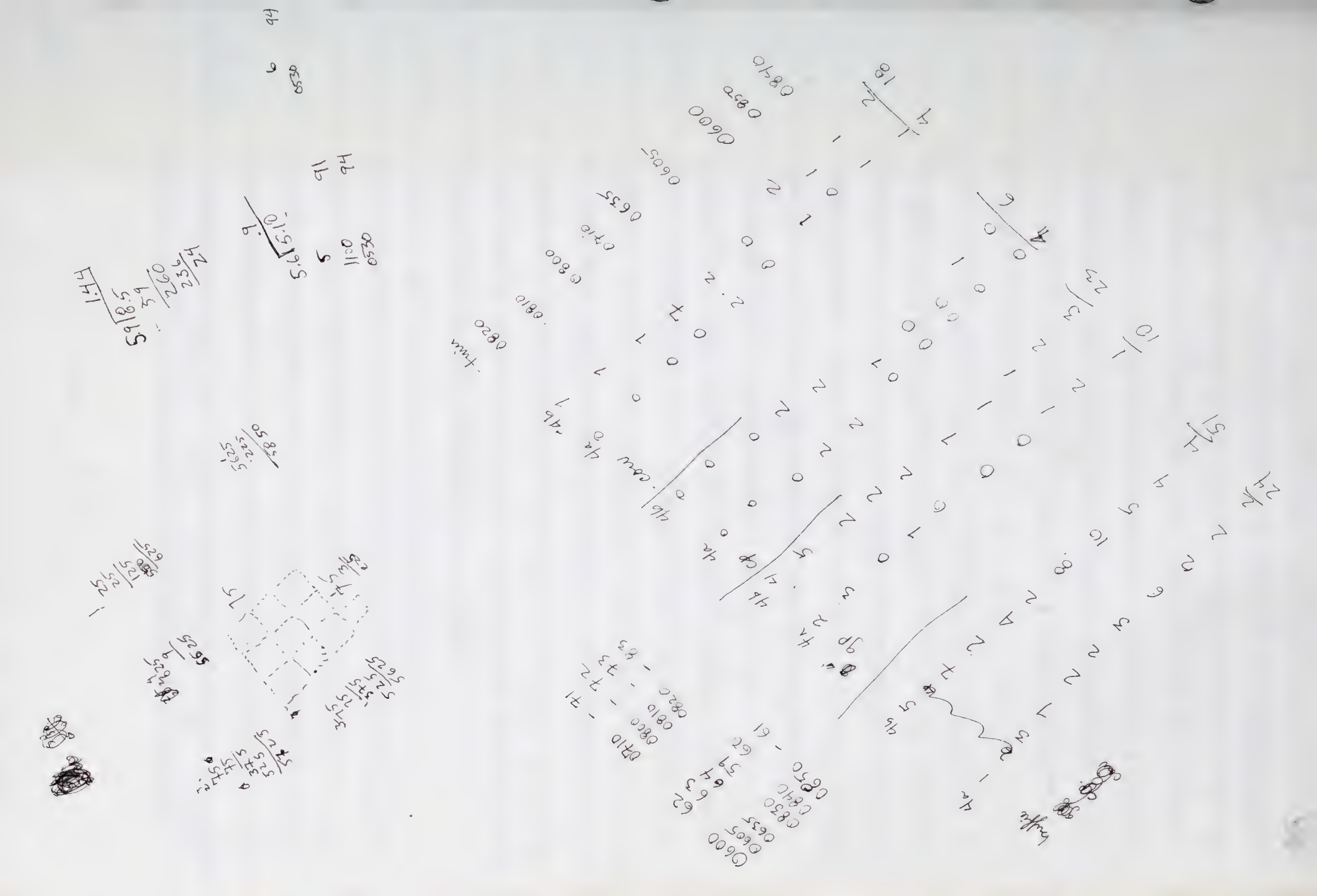
individual Pectorals, noting feeding + social behavior (see op. accent). They were able to disappear completely from view in certain areas of the grid because of the high grass, and did so frequently enough to make me doubt the completeness of the census. Yleps did not disappear, however. I was distracted at one point on Grid 3b by a group (!) of 3 Gallinago. These birds were feeding and preening within a radius of 3m of one another. They were in an area between the observation post and the grid, in higher (both in elevation + in actual vegetation hght.) and dryer than the grid. Last sample at 1415, weather conditions almost identical to those at beginning (70°).

Tower Area (Llanos and Arroyo), Estancia Medeland, Prcia de B.A. Argentina

1925, on tower - sky is 80-90% covered with low clouds (but promise of clearing - they are not so heavy as earlier, and there have been extensive patches of blue). Lois brought me here + left, ~20 minutes ago. Arroyo contains (far, visible end, toward S at curve to W. ~ 150m away) - 20 H godwit, closer in toward tower, ~100 m away - 10 WR with 2 Ch. falklandicus, 2 G.plover. the plovers continue toward the grid - 4 on this side of the grid. 2 WR on E side of Arroyo on grid. Grid 7 (50m SE of Tower) contains: 2 Ch. falklandicus, 1 buff-breasted sniper. In Grid 4 (50 m NE of tower) — 3 golden plover, 3 buff-breasted sandpipers. At 1935, disturbance, and ~30 WR flew up Arroyo, taking with them those I had counted. All the godwits left. Birds whirling overhead, and settling into field on opposite side of Arroyo. 0736 Incident Vertical Light = 260 ft candles. 2000 - flock of 16 BW Shift landed just past the grid, just as a herd of 8-10 wild pigs ran across the arroyo + to the NE across the llanos. Lapwings hounded them as they ran. 2005 IVL = 32 f.c.; the sun is setting now, there are a few ruffles on Grid 4. Sky has almost cleared - 30% cloud. Wind moderate from NE.

At 2000 began sampling - 1 each of Grids 5, 6, and 4 - 2005, 2007, 2015. totals:

Grid 5: White rump 6; Golden plover, 2; Ch. falklandicus, 1. Grid 6: Golden Plover, 1; Ch. falklandicus, 1; Grid 4: Golden Plover, 6. I began to run another cycle of sampling, but light levels fell too low to read numbers on stakes (IVL = 4 f.c. at 2020.) 2025 WR left, 1 flying up Arroyo. 2 Lapwing flew into Arroyo. 2026 1 Gplover downstream. 2027 1 GP landed on Grid 5; 4 flew by. 2028 golden flew; 2029 1 GP upstream, BH Gull upstream; 2030 - 3 Gp flying downstream E across Arroyo; 2034 2 Gp landed, took off 2035. 2035 Ajai ajai flew downstream; 2042 - 8 BWS landed at edge of Grid 5. going up stream. these notes were taken



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Tower Llanos area, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho, Pcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

18 December

looking W across a section of the arroyo delimited by my restricted view from the bottom of the blind, ~50m of length. I stopped when light conditions became too poor. Remained in the tower for night

19 December

After a poor sleeping night (e.g. burrowing owl woke me up at 0230, hovering overhead - quite an apparition - and then landing on the blind) but fortunately with no rain nor attacks by cows (they shake the tower considerably when they come to scratch on it) — up at 0530, with the sun on the horizon. Clear sky, temp = 52°; IVL = 260 Ft., A very low fog covers the whole visible area; in the tower I'm almost above it. Immediately took sample of Grid 5, +6 then I was attacked by cows. They continued across Arroyo after with the help of a few flying stakes from the tower. Grid 4 read at 0600 and 0605. I continued to read grids through the morning until 1200, when Lois picked me up. Because of cows, at ~0930 I had to get down chase them away, + then left the birds. I did not sample for an hour. At ~1000 Large flocks of golden and buffies started flying over the fields; they continued this way until my departure (see 6.p. spaccnt)

Totals for Grid counts of 19 December on tower Llanos: Grid 4a (5x5 units = 2500 m²) (10 samples) [species, ave no (range), total]: Buff breasted sandpiper, 2.4 (1-6), 24; Golden Plover, 1.0 (0-3) 10; Correndero pipit 0.4 (0-2) 4; cow 0.4 (0-2) 4. 4a is contained within 4b, the former being 4 25x25 m units marked into 5x5 units. Thus, the totals of 4b include those of 4a. 4b totals: Buff breasted: 5.1 (2-10), 51; Golden Plover, 2.3 (1-5) 23; Correndero Pipit 0.6 (0-2) 6; Cow 1.8 (0-7) 18.

Grid 7 (5850 m²) (6 samples) Buff breasted sandpiper, 8.5 (2-10) 41; G plover 1.7 (0-3) 10; Correndera pipit 1 (0-2) 6; Molothrus bonariensis 2 (0-1) 1; Sicalis 0.5 (0-3) 3; cow 1.2 (0-7) 7.

Grid 5 [3 runs]: wRump 3 (0-5) 9; Golden 3 (0-8) 9; Micropalama 0.7 (0-2) 2; Arenaria interpres 0.3 (0-1) 1. Grid 6 [2 runs] wRump 0.5 (0-1) 1; Golden 0.5 (0-1) 1; Southern lapwing 1 (0-2) 2; BH Gull 1.5 (0-3) 3. The major discovery of this session at the tower is the amount (frequency) of intra-specific aggression between buffies, and its apparent space-specificity, i.e. territoriality (see again accnt). I now have strong indications of territoriality in Tryngites subruficollis, Calidris melanotos, C. fuscicollis, and C. bairdii. At the same time, it is apparent that not all birds of each species are territorial all of the

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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, ~~Partido de B~~ 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Prcia de B.A., Argentina.

19 December (cont'd)

~~Season~~ time. I have watched foraging birds of all 3 species under circumstances where they do not flock. The problem can be set up logically: observation → that birds of each species of the 4 ~~categories~~ engage in territorial behavior some of the time. There are two broad ~~categories~~ possible sets of hypothesis (assuming a "clean" causal relationship: 1) ~~that~~ external features, including food type (sensitivity to density of birds, dispersion (even vs patchy, variation in density, etc.), habitat dispersion, predation (e.g. through effect on feeding behavior, size of bird, frequency, etc.); 2) internal features: age or sex class, past experience, including here or breeding ground, different breeding populations. Not all of these hypothesis are equally testable, and because of the very high possibility that a number of factors are interacting, a test of a series of dichotomys appears impossible. ~~At this point I would argue~~ It is possible that birds are territorial some of the time, ~~+~~ forage + flock at others (in fact it is almost certain). But do all flocking birds at some time establish or try to establish territories? First, I argue that habitat variables are not the critical factors. There may be a necessary condition for territoriality (e.g. a minimum time of habitat stability), but they do not appear to be sufficient, for I see non-territorial birds in all the habitats as the estancia in which I have seen territorial birds. With further data, I may be able to unravel this statement with proportions within populations &/or changes in % with time during day, weather etc. These factors could be confusing an otherwise clear picture, but I doubt it. Age + sex classes may be the critical factor in determining which birds (once given the necessary habitat conditions) are territorial. In fact, they may be both necessary + sufficient. This would leave unanswered, of course, the adaptive value for territoriality. [Avoiding for the moment Hamilton's suggestion that the behaviors are not adaptive] Oh well.

Grid #9 (Farmhouse Puddle) ~5850 m² Estancia Medland, Prcia de B.A., Argentina

20 December

On observation post at 0545. [~~Dawn~~ sun on horizon 0530] Sky clear, slight NW Breeze, temp 65°. First reading at 0600: temp 66°; clouds 0°; wind slight, NNW, Incident vertical Light = 580 fc. Temperature rose quickly during the morning, so that when I left (0930) it was 80°. Wind increased to moderate, but no clouds. Rain 7 samples. Totals (sp, ave # (range) total):

Pectoral 16.7 (4-42) 117; WRump 7.9 (0-15) 54; Micropalama 0.4 (0-2) 3; LYlegs 8.9 (3-21) 62; GYlegs 1.4 (0-__) 10; Wilson's Phalarope 1.1 (0-5) 8; S. Lapwing 1.1 (0-~~8~~ 8) 4 — 3 chicks;

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Grid #9, Estancia Medeland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

20 December
cont'd

(grid totals cont'd) Hudsonian godwit 0.1 (0-1)1; Anas versicolor 0.7 (0-1)5; speckled teal 1 (0-3)7; Correndera pipit 0.7 (0-3)5; Kiskadee 0.6 (0-3)4; W F Ibis 0.3 (0-1)2; Himantopus 0.1 (0-1)1

Of particular interest this morning was the result of a human disturbance immediately prior to the 0900 sample. Birds reconcentrated heavily in the (1,0) and (1,1) census units. My reading of this dispersion pattern was made more difficult by the fact that the [illegible] pair raising a brood of 3 in the (0,0) unit and surrounds chased the [illegible] flocks from their landing site several times.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Prcia de B.A. Argentina

Came to tower at 1800 w/ cois. at 1855 ran Grid 6, then again at 1900, + 1905.

1915 began counting flying shorebirds. Between 1925 and 1945 I was running Grids 6, 5, + 4.

time	I.VL (footcandles)	Pectoral	Ruddy turnstone	buffy	tern	WR	golden	Bus	Hg.	unidentified	Yleg
1915-1920	1500 fc	IIII		III		II					
1920-1925	500	III	I				III				
1945-1950	260	IIII	0	I+52	I	+20	+5 10+15			10	
1950-1955	260	III		III	II						
1955-2000	170	III					III				
2000-2005	130			I	III	+42	I				I
→ sun set 2008											
2005-2010	65	II				30+70 +32				05	I
2010-2015	40					4+1 +40+3 +6	III				II
2015-2020	32				III		III				
2020-2025	6					III +15+20	III				III
2025-2030	1					I	III I				

these figures cannot be used as a reliable measure of comparing species abundance because of the differences between them in ease of sighting and of identifying. However, within a given species the data should allow me to examine patterns of movement, and then to compare the patterns between species. The high WR count reflects their tendency to up and down the arroyo. I counted flocks twice if they landed in between counts.

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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Trancho by road, Prcia de B.A., Argentina

20 December cont'd

Grid count totals: #4 (once) - Gplover 5; buff breasted sapipin 1, Cpipit, 1. Grid 5 (twice) WPump 15 (9-21), 30; buffy 0.5 (0-1) 1; Gplover 2 (1-3) 4; H godwit 0.5 (0-1) 1. Grid 6: (5 counts) White rump 1.3 (6-25) 65; Pectoral 2 (0-4) 10; buffbreasted sipipr 0.4 (0-1) 2; Gplover 3.2 (1-5) 16 Southern lapwing 2.8 (2-3) 14; Hudsonian godwit 0.4 (0-1) 2; Blk gull 0.2 (0-1) 1.

Grid 9, Farmhouse Puddle, Estancia Medeland, Prcia de B.A., Argentina

23 December

Lois drove me to the observation post at 1430 and walked away from the car. It was immediately apparent that the grid had changed from its condition 20 December, at least as indicated by the distribution of birds. In (3,0), where 20 December there had been Pectorals and White-rumps, there were a few golden plovers with none of the others. Weather on arrival was typical of the last few days - Clear, (10% cloud cover), warm (24°C) with a moderate NW wind. Grid totals: (8 samples between 1735 and 1940) Pectoral 45 (27-65) 360; White rump 42 (4-42) 91; Micropalama 8.5 (0-68) 68; GYLegs 0.75 (0-1) 6; LYLegs 1.9 (0-3) 15; Golden Plover 11 (6-16) 88; Wilson phalarope - (0-1) 1; S. Lapwing 1.5 (0-2) 12; Yb pritail - (0-1) 1; W Faced Ibis - (0-1) 2; Pizzaro pigeon - (0-1) 1; Spectacled tyrant 1 (0-3) 8; Fork tailed tyrant - (0-1) 1; Kiskadee - (0-1) 1; Molothrus bonariensis - (0-1) 1; Correndera pipit 3.6 (0-7) 29. The shorebirds struck me as being more congregated than they had been during the last observation period; I was fairly sure that my arrival did not cause a significant disturbance on the grid. Lapwing activity was again a significant feature of the diversion, especially in the (0,0) area. I was unable to count sample units past 1940 because of light levels. A large thunderhead to the SE obscured the sun prematurely. 1930 a flock of Micropalama plus a few Wh. Rump grid. They remained less than 10 minutes (fortunately during a sampling time). After they left the other shorebirds began flocking and taking short flights, returning to the grid. One flock of WR did this twice. It looked as if they were preparing to leave. However, by the time that I left (2000) they were still on grid foraging. Throughout the observation session there was a small group of resting (sitting on ground) shorebirds in the area immediately to the E of the grid (5,0 approximately) - goldens, white rumps and a few pectorals. Temperature down to 21°C at departure, wind mod NW, 50% cloud cover.

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Grid 1, Farmhouse Puddle, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Provincia de B.A., Argentina

24 December

On grid observation post by 0550 - sun just on horizon. No wind, temp = 18°C, no clouds but a thick, low morning haze hanging over the grid. My arrival did not disturb birds (judging by lack of alarm calls or bobbing) but at 0540 2 ranch hands chased a herd of horses across the puddle about 125 m south of the southern end. 2 other such disturbances during the morning, plus 2 gunshots. These disturbances did not appear to affect the distribution of the birds, as none flew, nor were there any obvious movements. However, they did evoke calling and head bobbing. Especially the gunshots - virtually all the birds I could see stopped feeding and began calling. I was able to hear every species on the grid known to be on the grid calling, especially Lapwings. Between 0600 and 1700 I ran 11 grid counts. 3 main factors appeared to be very important in the distribution of the birds this morning: 1) in lower left hand corner, (0,0), (1,0), (0,1), and perhaps (0,2) [as well as just outside the grid in (1,0),(-1,1)] a pair of Southern Lapwing have been chasing out all other shorebirds. This behavior has not been consistent enough to exclude all other shorebirds (none of them have a 0 cumulative use score) but the Lapwings activity is obviously interfering with use by other birds. The reason for this behavior appears to be that this pair of lapwing has 4 chicks foraging in that vicinity. Interestingly, the foraging efforts of the adults is not concentrated there (see sp. accnt.) the interference by the lapwings has spread during the morning, to a point where by 0900 it was chasing birds off of (1,1) and (2,1). the effect of the lapwings behavior spreads beyond the periphery of its defended area, especially because of the spreading in time. White rumps and pectorals using area on the periphery of those birds forced off their feeding areas usually first fly only a short distance and land in the vicinity of other potential birds. this results in more territorial interactions, which brings us to 2) aggressiveness within the pectorals. there are several (probably 5) very aggressive birds on the grid, whose aggression appears to be space specific ie. territorial. (see sp. accnt.) And 3) - several WR also appear to be territorial. Almost all of the aggression has been intraspecific - except the lapwings. Occasionally I see a pectoral chasing a WR, but never with the space specificity of the intra-

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7500

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Grid 1 (Farmhouse puddle) Estancia (Medelana) 35 km S of Juarez by road, Provincia Buenos Aires, Argentina

24 December cont'd

specific attacks and supplantations. Indeed, I see enough WR - Pectoral pairs to suggest that the association may not be accidental. It will be interesting to determine if the white rump and Pectoral territories are placed independently of one another - but probably impossible to tease separate out possible habitat influences on the placement of activity + territory centers. The 2 LY legs present on the grid this morning was also territorial, excluding all other LY legs from foraging. Although I spied up a BN Stilt pair in one count, they were fighting. One of them excludes other BNS from the entire pond (all 130 m long of it). The only shorebird species which at no time showed territorial behavior were Micropalama (see sp. account). Minimum of 5 territorial Pectorals, 3 territorial WR, and 1 territorial Y legs on grid this morning. Probably more WR than 3. 0845 - one instance of what must be called a default grouping → 2 Pect's and 2 WR in the (5,6) unit (even the grid to extend that far), all of them there because they were chased out of other areas. The territories of Pectorals + WR must be strongly affected by Lapwing activity - not only in the fact that in some areas the Lapwings will not allow other shorebirds (e.g. when their chicks are) - but also is and the constant stirring effect that their chasing must have on the dispersion of adjacent birds - but also because the exclusive areas of the Lapwings change in time. This morning, as I have noted (re SC. spacing + above), The defended area has shifted toward the center of the grid, incorporating more + more units. The instability! Add this to the longer term change in habitat - induced by dryers! Grid totals (22(!!) samples, 7500 m²; ~~Pectoral~~ species, ave no (range) total): Pectoral 6.6 (3-13) 146; White rump 6.9 (4-17) 159; Micropalama 0.1 (0-2) 2; Gallinago 0.2 (0-2) 4; LY Legs 0.5 (0-1) 11; G. plover 0.3 (0-1) 6; BN Stilt 0.1 (0-2) 2; S Lapwing 0.4 (0-3) 8 - inc 4 records of chicks; Age latus thinus - (0-1) 1.

26 December

Out on observation post by at 0510. Clouds 80%, temp 19°C, a light N wind. Southern Lapwing active in chasing shorebirds from (4,0), (4,1) etc from the beginning, although they were not consistently active throughout the morning. It was immediately

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Grid 1 (Farmhouse Puddle), Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of Juancho, Prov de Buenos Aires, Argentina

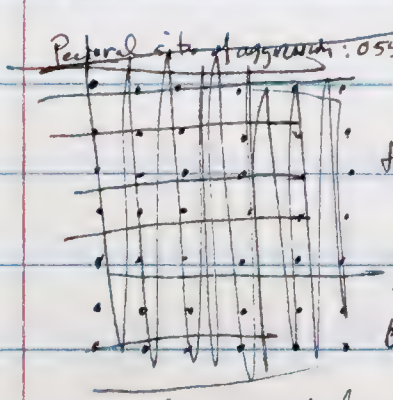
26 December
cont'd

apparent that the grid had dried somewhat since the last observation period, 24 December, particularly in the (0,n) area which was shallow to begin with. Now, where (0,0n) there had been predominately surface water, with a few mounds of dirt extending above the grid units are approximately: (0,0) - 80% surface of water, (0,1) - 70%; (0,2) 50%; (0,3) 50%; (0,4) 50%; (0,5) 10%. The other areas of the grid are not noticably different, because the water is somewhat deeper there. During the morning, the clouds grew heavier, and by 0730 it was raining heavily. At 0745 I retreated. By then, however, I'd made 7 samples. Grid totals: Pectoral 4.3 (4-5) 29; White rump 5.7 (3-8) 40; Baird's 0.4 (0-3) 3; Micropalama 0.4 (0-3) 3; Lesser Yellowlegs 1.3 (0-2) 9; Golden Plover 0.4 (0-1) 3; Southern Lapwing 1.0 (0-2) 7 (including 4 chicks); Killdeer 0.4 (0-1) 3; C Pipit - (0-1) 1. (average / count range / total)

During the morning I recorded 2 additional sets of data: 1) Sites of aggression - on an enlarged grid map I plotted the, as close as I could, the exact site of acts of aggression between on the part of any species, recording the time and the species participating. It is not a complete account of the aggressive acts, as during some of the periods I was sampling. And some species, particularly Pectorals, & Lapwings, +LYL are better represented because of the relative ease of locating them. 2) Following data - individual Pectorals were followed, their position plotted every minute for 20-30 minutes. Both of these data sets are in the grid notebooks (with limited reference in species account). Aggression → the morning was represented on 3 sheets, each covering 40 min of observation. Period 1: 0550 - 0630 25 total; Pectoral → Pectoral 13, Pect → WR 2, WR → WR 7, LYL → LYL 1, Slapwing → WR 2

Period 2: 0630 → 0710 30 total Pect → Pect 11, Pect → WR 1, WR → WR 7, SL → Pect 4, SL → WR 4, SL → LYL 3

Period 3: 0710 → 0750 14 total Pect → Pect 7, Pect → WR 1, WR → WR 3, LYL → LYL 3. I left the grid at 0750 because the very hard rain was making observation impossible. During the morning, a total of 10 mm fell between 0700 and 1400. I returned to the grid at that point. It was still raining (5 more mm fell during the afternoon). The effect of 10 mm on the grid was visible, particularly in the (0,n) units which had previously dried considerably from their condition on 12/24. Although the 10 mm has not completely reversed the drying trend, the grid



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Grid 1 (Farmhouse Puddle), Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pcia. de Bs. Aires, Argentina

26 December
cont'd

is much more similar to that of 12/24. Overwhelming, the grid on my arrival was a flock of 24 Micropalama foraging - the majority of which stayed throughout my observations. With them were 2 Wilson's phalaropes. There also appeared to be fewer Pectorals and WR. During the afternoon (I stayed until 1600) the rain stopped at 1433 (only to start again just before I left) and the wind picked up from moderate to strong. Temperature remained ~20°C. 19 samples. totals (sp, ave #, range, total)
Pectoral 3.4 (2-5) 65, WRump 3.7 (0-6) 73, Micropalama 24 (17-28) 454, LYLegs 2.4 (0-6) 44, GYLegs 0.2 (0-3) 4; Wilson's Phalarope 0.9 (0-2) 17; G. Plover — (0-1) 1; Speckled teal 0.3 (0-1) 5; Correndera Pipit — (0-1) 1. Lapwings were present during the afternoon, aggressive, but their activity appeared to be dispersed. The center of their activity was off the grid. However, the lower right hand corner of the grid (low (4,w), (3,w)) they are chasing, especially during the latter part of the observation period. They are definitely coming from (4,0) and on one occasion from (0,-1). But not as regularly as during previous observation periods.

27 December

On grid at 0600, but took no samples because of constant disturbance. Remained ~ 1 hour, during which I saw several SC attacks and a number of territorial interactions, including one prolonged pectoral fight (see sp. accent for Pectoral).
Back at 1125. Took first reading at 1195 temp 27°C. Lapwing chicks in (0,-1) quiet. and the SC has been aggressive in first 20 min all the way across the lower part of the grid - this is the dominant feature of the grid this afternoon - territ aggression During the first part of observations ranging over most of the lower half of the grid. 7 of 21 samples must be considered territ disturbed. In addition, it is apparent from the hour of 5 minute sampling intervals (1600-1700) that, if the lapwings disturbance is persistent enough, the effects take a considerable time to decay. It may be that all of the 5 min hour samples are thus affected, though labeled only those falling within one minute as territ disturbed. Two other significant features of the data are the presence of non-territorial pectorals in some of the samples (see sp. accent) and a solitary Micropalama which remained most of the afternoon. Totals: Pectoral 4 (2-7) 86 White rump 3 (1-4) 61 Micropalama 0.4 (0-1) 8; GYL — (0-1) 1, LYL 1 (0-1) 20

JP Myers
1973
1974

1974

Journal

Grid 1 (Farmhouse Puddle), Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

27 December cont'd — totals (cont'd) Golden plover — (0-1) 2; Southern lapwing ~~0.6~~ 0.6 (0-4) 13 (inc. 10 chicks); Snowy egret — (0-1) 1.

28 December — Trip to Mar de Plata for provisions. In the evening a thunderstorm, 22 mm rain recorded at the Farmhouse

30 December — Out a Grid 1 0350 in order to place mist net for banding one satellite crossing. Finished putting up net at 0425 – within 2 seconds of having finished I heard the first WR of the morning, (down at which pt also I began to see signs of an increase in light) Upon arising at 0330 there were red-winged troupials already calling, and a few Zonotrichia. Walked from camp out along the S fence to Grid 1. My approach to the grid area was met with 5 Lapwings calling, but not from 1; they were in the Grid 9 region. Also a few G Y Legs began to call. (after 0400) there were no birds at the grid (when #1) I arrived. 0432 no big influx of birds yet. Sky 60% overcast with a big storm on the way from the south. Wind mod, NW. 0435 light high enough to see birds' silhouetted against the sky (but just big birds – ducks & roseate spoonbill) 0436 small flock of WR heard going into Grid 9 0438 first Golden heard. 0442 heard first pectoral. Birds are definitely over grid 1 by now. 0445 screamers begin to call. ~~0446~~ 0450 went to check net. Banded 6 WR rump and 1 Micropalama. A LY Legs and a Pectoral bounced off the net at different times during the morning. After 0515 birds ~~to~~ were definitely avoiding the net in flight. Went back to camp 0630. Began to rain 0700 – 5mm during morning

31 December — 2mm rain during morning.

1 January — Arrived at Grid 1 from Villa Ocell party (happy new year) at 0330. Set up two nets within the grid. The wind (NW) was somewhat strong (more so) for good netting, (NNW) and a storm threatened to the south. The sky became overcast while I was putting up the first net. 0405 – one Pectoral flying 0415 spooked a WR (!) off the grid, one which I know was not there at 0330 because I had tromped throughout that area of the grid. C3 By 0435 Teros began scolding me when I got out of the car at 0330. ~~overall~~ By 0430 the red coloration in the dawn became apparent; growing pronounced by 0445.

Myers, J. P.

1974

Journal

Argentina

JPMyers
1974

Journal

Grid 1 (#9) (Farmhouse Puddle) Estancia Medland, 35 Km S of ~~Francisco~~, Part. de Madariaga, Prov. de Bs. Aires., Argentina

1 January cont'd

first yellowleg call. Netting was moderately successful: 4 Pectorals, 3 white rumps, 2 Zonotrichia, 2 Sicalis. The sandpipers received USF-WS ~~color~~ bands + color bands (see sp. accent + banding schedule) the fringillids nothing - what monsters they are in a net. By 0645 a fierce storm was imminent. Not wanting to be holding the metal poles while standing in the puddle in the midst of lightning, I furled the nets and ran. As yesterday, after release the WR did not fly; rather, they ran 10'-20' and stopped to preen. Pectorals all flew. Just before ~~closure~~ beginning to clean the nets and band, I walked through Grid 9, 75 m ~~across~~ across the road. I did this in the hope that by spooking birds from #9, more would be picked up in the nets. I was impressed by the # of birds already in Grid 9 - despite the fact that I had heard no great quantities flying in. It was too dark to tell well, but there were several flocks (50+ birds / flock) of WR and Pectoral. Remembering 23 December - that birds were flying into Grid 9 as late as 2000 - it occurred to me that #9 may be a roosting area. The storm hit just after we left the Grid - strong winds + 19 mm rain.

1800 returned to Grid 1 area. White rump YELLOW LEFT in (93). → Grid 1 No other banded birds detected, although 3 Pects were preening, and a small flock of Micropalama feeding.

Grid 9 - 1830 set up two nets in suspected roosting area. I then retired to the road ~200 m away to watch. ~~Towards dark (1830) flocks~~ I had spooked one large flock of Pects (200+ birds) off of grid while setting up nets. Towards dark (1930) flocks began to appear - especially WR, Pectoral, and G-Y Legs. ~2005 something spooked a flock of WR + Pect that had been preening near the net (10 m away) - they flew up, and some of them in. The alarm cries of the caught birds spooked the marsh, and several hundred birds took to the air. ~~A flock of~~ the WR + Pect flock continued to whirl in the vicinity of the net, and I picked some up as they went by. During the evening banded 21 Pectorals and 14 WR. 2 WR died in the net. -046, 049 Compared them

JP Myers
1974

Journal

Grid 9 (Farmhouse Puddle) Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho, Partido de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1 January (contd) In addition to those I netted 2 Slaty-backs and 1 Sicalis. Rained (lightly) about 2200. During the night (~~0100~~ 0100) became steadier.

2 January Rained continuously most of the night, and steadily all morning until 1330. Accumulated 41 mm. At 1330 sky cleared 100%, and remained that way without wind until ~~@~~ 1830 when Cumulus started pouring in from the west. Still little wind. At 1900 I walked to grid 9 — the rain filled the area (Grids 1+9) up to a point similar to that achieved by the rains of 4-6 December. ~~Alternate~~ Few birds on the grids. Found one dead banded White-rump (Right Orange, Left Yellow 821 52017) and one live bird that couldn't fly (821 52019 orange orange). Picked them both up. Unfurled nets, herded a bell mare + entourage away, and retired to a vantage point. Compared to last night's ~~cast~~ abundance of shorebirds, tonight's paucity is alarming. Did my activities change the roosting area? Or did they move because of the rain (~~as~~ increased water level making other roosts more desirable)? The only birds which lighted were a group of Hudsonian godwits and another of Golden-Plovers. Heard very few ~~Baird's~~ White-rumps and fewer Pectorals. Caught one Southern Lapwing — nothing else.

Grid 3, Estancia Medland, Partido de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

3 January 1700 walked from Farmhouse north through Grid 3 and to the first windmill, ~500 m W of Farmhouse. Warm (in high 70's) with the wind not strong enough to keep away hordes of mosquitos. No clouds. I went to survey the area after yesterday morning's deluge. The effects were obvious but not quite so overwhelming as I had expected. Water level near that of 6 December. I had not been in this area for over 2 weeks, and was struck by the luxuriousness of the lowland vegetation - mostly 6"-8" grasses and sedges (Juncus inc.). Spooked several Gallinago (solitary ones) from the flooded grasslands. Few shorebirds - one flock (~~30~~ <100 birds) of Lt-legs, a few Golden-Plovers, and 3 Pectorals on the grid. At the northern end of the grid the trench sedge "hedge" [which serves to separate the gridded water body from a large tule swamp to the west] peters out - and the gridded pond almost reaches the tule swamp. Here, on the bank of the swamp, were a flock of ~15 W.R.,

Journal

Grid 3, Estancia Medeland, ~~Partido~~ 35 Km S of Juancho ~~[illegible]~~ by road, Ptdo de Madariaga Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

3 January (cont'd) small number of B N Stilt, 4 Pectorals, several S. lapwings, and 2 Southern Scissortails. ~~[illegible]~~ collected 3 White-rump (051, 052, 053).

4 January ~~[illegible]~~ Trip to Mar del Plata. Returned 1830 just before rain. White rump I had caught 1 January, banded, then found alive + flightless 2 January had died in our absence. Prepared it (054) Rain began in evening and continued throughout night to past 0330. 55 mm.

5 January Dawn cloudless and strong S winds; temp 50°F. 1400 walked along same route as 3 January – from Farmhouse through Grid 5 to Molino – and then beyond ~ 300 m. From there circled west around tule marsh, and walked back to Farmhouse road along fence on west side of tule marsh. Went past Grid's 1 and 9 on return route. Weather in 70's, very windy (S) and cloudless. Winds strong enough to make this my first mosquitoless day in the field for weeks. Returned 1700. Collected 2 white rumps (059, 060) and 4 Pectorals. Saw 8 probable Painted Snipe – they were all on the edge of the tule marsh, probably forced out of normal foraging areas by water levels. The water is now higher than it ~~was~~ has been at any time since our arrival in November. There is no exposed mud visible in any of the areas ~~normally~~ through which I passed. Water levels is at least 3 inches higher in the Grid 3 region than it was 3 January. A flock similar to that which I found 3 January was in the same vicinity foraging – but displaced ~ 30' by the higher water levels. There were more birds beyond the wind mill than there were in the Grid area. Beyond the wind mill had not had water – much less any birds – until the 3 January rain. Present were a flock of 30+ Pectorals, about the same number of White rump, 15 Hudsonian Godwit, 10 Himantopus, a few golden plover, ~~[illegible]~~ ~10 S lapwing, ~~[illegible]~~ many L-Y/legs, and a few G-Y/legs.

Grid 1, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

Walked part Grid 1 on my return from above passage through Grid 3 area. No birds landed and visible, although a flock of 30+ WR flew over. Water level is up ~~[illegible]~~ 3"-5" – no likely habitat included within the grid now – all but the duraznillo is submerged. ~~[illegible]~~ 2 (Solanum) stakes are almost under as well.

JPMyers
1974

Journal

Rte 11 Pond, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

7 January — 0700 Drove to Rte 11 Pond on Farmhouse road and parked in car when the road goes through that lowland. the object of the trip was to collect a Pectoral of unknown territorial status. Therefore I sat in the car watching nearby Pectorals (of which there were few — ~4, including one that looks like it has juvenile plumage). After 2 hours spent determining that, with a fair degree of certainty, one particular bird was defending an area just S of the road, I moved to collect it. In the process it flew, and after several unsuccessful approaches it began consorting with other disturbed Pectorals — after which I was no longer sure which was which. In the chaos I managed to shoot 1 WR (063) instead. Weather: cool, 60's, slight breeze, no clouds. On the way back to camp I collected 2 buff-breasted sandpipers from a large flock of buffies and goldens foraging by the road near Arroyo Chico Bridge (061, 062). They were in the fallow corn field. The flock was fairly tight for these species.

Grid 2 (Rte 11 Pond) Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

8 January — After spending the night ~100 m from Grid 2, I placed 3 nets at 0300 hrs — By 0530 the light was too high, so I took the nets down. During the morning caught only 1 Southern Lapwing returning from netting I picked up one lapwing chick off of Grid 1 (064)

9 January — 5 mm rain. I remained in camp to rehabilitate maggot infested specimens

Rte 11 Pond at Farmhouse Rt, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

10 January — drove to Rte 11 Pond with Lois at 1530. Temp in 70's, wind very strong (stools can rolling from stop on level) and ehy 20% cloud cover. Wind kept up until 1630; it quite as a brief squall passed overhead. Birds along the road today were shyer than of late, but once I stopped they returned to feed near by. En route saw several hundred golden plover in the fallow corn field east of the arroyo, as well as several buffies. Despite the presence of appropriate looking holes along the roadside, with proper amounts of vegetation, etc., east of Arroyo Chico bridge I saw no Pectorals, even in areas where they had been foraging at times when water level was similar. Before I started negritos, (I should have noted seeing the first one 5 January) are now exceedingly common along the road. At Rte 11 Pond I watched interactions between territorial Pectorals and territorial White-rumps (see

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Rte 11 Pond at Farmhouse Rd Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

10 January (cont'd)

species accounts). Collected one territorial Pectoral (065) and one territorial white rump (066) at 1645. Then drove back along farmhouse road

Grid 4 (Tower Llanos), Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

On the way back from Rte 11 pond we checked out the path to Grid 4 in order to see if it was accessible. Many golden spooked in the fallow corn field, but only a few buffies. Immediately upon passing through the gate at the W end of the corn field, and entering into the Llanos, started to see more buffies. However, the numbers were not very impressive (>100). The Llanos, for the first time since our arrival, show signs of growth above the 1-2" level (in the non-thistle contaminated area) But it is ragged + sparse, and apparently just involving seed heads of Juncus + perhaps a few more. The ditch proved to be impassable for the car, with water still flowing swiftly despite no substantial rains for several days, and excellent drying conditions (strong wind, sun + warm). Indeed the lower areas of the Llanos still have a falon of standing water. We selected a campsite at the edge of the ditch on a direct line between the gate and the tower, and will return this evening so that tomorrow morning I will be in good position for netting.

Tower Llanos
Grid 1, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

Passed through Grid 1 and Grid 9 area via Farmhouse Road in car at 1830. No shorebirds on Grid 1, and none apparent on Grid 9. 4 Rump Yellow Right is again in the puddle between Grid 1 and the last Farmhouse Road gate before reaching the farmhouse.

Grid 4 (Tower Llanos) Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

Returned to temporary campsite shortly after sunset. We are right beside a small pond (10' x 20') that has in the past been dry. One territorial WR on it, and [illegible] others, also possibly territorial) on a larger (40 x 20) pond about 50m up the ditch.

11 January

Up at 0215 to chase cows from around the tent. Moon just passed full, and at 0215 quite high. Temp lower than in other recent evenings (7°C at dawn). Wind died to a very slight breeze. At both 3 mornings naked runs to finally get the cows away for good. Up at 0330 to place nets. Walked from camp to tower and it took considerable trouble with the nets because of the lousy substrate - I put the first one on Grid 1 on the Llanos

Journal

35 Km S. of Juancho

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 January (cont'd)

proper, and could not penetrate the ground with the net poles. The other net I placed within Grid 5 in Arroyo Chico; ~~the~~ where the sandiness of the soil did not provide a firm enough support to avoid use of supporting guy lines. (before landing out I tried some fishing with the mist net, but caught nothing except mud). Because of these travails I didn't get the latter net up completely until 0450. During the ~~noon~~ morning I caught nothing, despite the presence of goldens and buffies near or on Grid 7, and white rumps, lapwings, Chaundrios falklandicus, and goldens on Grid ~~5~~ 5. I believe that this is largely due to ~~the~~ the fact that after 0450 there remained little ~~time~~ of effective netting hours (and the birds were at least partly in already).

Farmhouse Rd, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

13 January

Woke up at 0230 in order to net. Sky overcast, strong wind, so I went back to bed. Between 0500 and ~~0600~~ 0700 it rained ≤10 mm. 1000 tried to go out on road toward Rte 11 pond but was unable to get passed mud beyond 1st gate. At 1630 tried again, + was successful. In both attempts I saw that there were no spps on grids 1 or 9 but at 1300 there had been an ~~un~~ unbanded solitary WR hanging around the (0,-1) unit of Grid 1. ~~In the~~ On the afternoon ~~No~~ Several flocks of goldens foraging in fallow cornfield as usual, some of the birds on the road as we drove up to them. No buffies seen anywhere. First Pectorals at ~~acres~~ of roadside puddles ~~along~~ just E of Rte 11 pond. Also 3 WR and more goldens. When we drove up there were 1 Pect + 1 WR foraging at the site where I had removed a territorial pectoral 10 January. However, they flew when we stopped, and had not returned 20 minutes later. I therefore drove off the road along the W side of the pond headed NE. ~~There~~ All shorebirds were along here, between the road + the fence = ≤200 m — were excessively spooky. ~5 Pectorals, 2 WR, and perhaps 10 S. lapwing. At the fence there is a broader feeding area — the demarcation between upland and water is drawn out — and that is where we found all but one of the Pectorals. I stayed there for an hour, but the birds were not adapting at all to the presence of the car, and finally flew. We followed (in time). On the way back to the Farmhouse I drove out onto the fallow-cornfield, looking for buffies. Alerted 3 (067, 068, 069) from a flock of 40. No info on their social status, as we were a tremendous disturbing influence while driving to + fro chasing them.

Farmhouse area, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

14 January 0800 sky clear, nearly windless, temp ~70°F. Lois + I walked from camp to the N edge of the Eucalyptus grove, then E through tall Pampas grass ~1 Km until reaching a large swamp running in a ~~NE~~ SW-S direction. ~~The~~ After following ~~the~~ the W edge of the swamp for 2 Km N, we cut NW until approaching the area where we had camped regularly in the end of November. At this pt we turned S, following our old "road" and returned to the Farmhouse Eucalyptus by 1200. The purpose of the trip was to find other areas being used by ~~the~~ lowland sandpipers - i.e. WR and Pectorals. However, as far as they were concerned the trip was a bust. Until just before heading away from the swamp we had seen no shorebirds. Then, after 2 prs of Lapwings, at ~1030 I saw one WR fly in S. No other WR seen until on the "road" back to the farmhouse, when I saw a flock of 7 going S. Along the edge of the swamp were many long stretches of area which I would not have expected to find white-rumps or Pectorals: grass too high or water too deep. But several locations were almost identical to ones upon which I've found pectorals previously. Especially some of the "micro-bays" of water extending (SE swamp) fashion, where the bay was well along the way to drying.

Saw ~8-10 Least Bittern, each one solitary as I spooked it from a spot along the periphery of the marsh. Several Plumbeous rails, a smaller unidentified rail or crake. Lots of the dickey birds, including Asthenes sp., Phleocryptes, Limnornis(?), Tachuris rubrigastra, Pseudoleistes, etc. As usual there were several I could not identify. Found 2 nests, one of Sicalis flaveola - 4 eggs, ~~one~~ in a dead or dying "clump" of Pampas grass, the other of a furnariid - probably which flitted away before I could get a good look at it. This nest was in a scimitar plant to the last one, but had an obviously worked tunnel cleared through the bush to get it. 3 eggs.

Just before heading NW from the swamp we succeeded in approaching 2 ~~Grs~~ Cryson (sp) - the muskrat I first saw in Paraguay. this pr (a 3rd spooked) may have been 2 juveniles - they appeared smaller than the one that left, and cavorted in front of us for 10 min, 15' away, oblivious to our presence. Took 2 poor pictures. At first I thought that they play was sexual, but in the end it appeared not to be. Crossing to the NW on the way back was considerably easier than our first approach to the swamp ~~from the~~ early in the morning. First, it was shorter, as the swamp angles toward the road. But more important - the Pampas

JP Myers
1979

Journal

14 January cont'd

Farmhouse Area, Estancia Medland, 35 Km. S. of Tandil by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Grass is lower + much less dense. This may be due to periodic burning, not in striking evidence in this particular site but something done by the Estancia to improve foraging for cattle, or to the possibility that the sandier soil (as compared to that over which we had passed) is less conducive to luxuriant pampas grass growth. The whole route, this morning except for immediately beside the swamp, and the return down the road, was over short sward dense like formations. Even the Pampas grass area is such (so the above possibility may be unlikely) rolls sharply, with mounds 3-5' high and less than 20' across alternating with depressions. In the depressions one finds water, and in the larger ones there are small swamps, with tule, rails, etc. But going NW from the edge of the swamp, where we did, within 200 m the local relief loses its moundiness, becoming an almost level plain dropping gradually into the next swamp to the W (Grid 3). The change from mounds to smoothness is sharp, + accompanied by a change in vegetation. Short grass, lawn-like in character, begins upon the level plain. And with it come Golden Plovers and Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Immediately upon entering the plain we came upon 14 Buffies and 4-5 Goldens. By this time (1130) the wind had picked up fiercely, and we'd already been just missed by a squall. A few drops fell (or rather - with the wind - were smashed upon us) as we returned to camp.

Grid 5, Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Drove to Tower at 2030 in order to camp + thus be in a good position for dawn netting. En route, just at the site where we turn off the road to head for the tower, I spotted a flock of ~20 buffies on the fallow cornfield, looking as if they were preparing to roost. Briefly got stuck in the ditch before the tower, again almost in the depression at the foot of the tower. Incredible hordes of insects hovering over the road, the fences, ditches, etc - anything which was different from the level Pampas plain. They were so thick that at a distance of 300 yds I thought it was a small patch of fog. To my relief they were not mosquitos, but a non-biting, very similar (although larger) breed. During the evening we slapped mosquitos, chased cows (I discovered that they have now broken all 4 of the tower's guy wires) and looked for the Comet in vain. Wind died at dusk, 5% clouds, 14°C

JP Myers
1974

Journal

Grid 5 (Tower Llanos), Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivanelo by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

15 January

Up at 0245 - had to chase 2 or more bulls away before putting out nets. Their close bellowing awoke me before 15 minutes before the alarm was to go off. 2 Nets up - one (6 meters 7'x42' binoculars) immediately out from tower on arroyo at "mouth" of the little wash that drains in here - ⊥ to arroyo. Another (7x60 monocular) 50 m down stream, again ⊥ to Arroyo. When I went out to put up net, disturbed lapwings, and also found one seed-tramp WR along the mouth of the wash. Moon ~½ full (decreasing) and at 0245 was ~ 1100 in sky. Temp at Temps at 0400 - 8°C, clouds 0%, wind very light from NE. Chauna-like falklandicus heard calling between 3 + 4 am. Anas sybilla-tris (along with the lapwings) most vocal spp. at these hours. Red winged tinamou began calling just before 0400. 0415 first detectable increase in light level along E horizon. 0430 - first C. p. down. By 0445 shorebird sounds were thick, esp. C. p. + lapwings. To my surprise I heard only one WR before light got high enough to see them. Left at 0530 there was a flock of WR feeding - either they had roosted there, or they had flown in quietly. Besides WR the other common bird along the shores was Ch. falklandicus. By 0545 I had caught 1 WR, 42' net, so I walked along the shore + managed to herd 6 more into the net (60'). Before dawn (0445) caught a lapwing in 60' net.

Grid 4 (tower Llanos) Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

After netting + banding I returned to the car (0630) - surprised to find we almost surrounded by a flock of Buffies (~20), Goldens (5) and WR (!! - 3) foraging in the grass. They spooked at my very close approach (< 20') and flew onto Grid 4, joining others there previously already there. 20+ Buffies on the grid !! And on Grid 7, also short-grass Llanos, there were more Buffies, interspersed among the cows. 3 more WR foraging with them in the dry grass.

Farmhouse road, Estancia 1 Km W of Farmhouse on Farmhouse road, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1540 driving along road toward turnoff to Tower Llanos we spoked a flock of ~10 WR in puddle on N side of road. The puddle was formed several months ago by the Estancia's tractor, digging out fill in order to increase road height in the area. If (the puddle) has been dry, Cpt

Journal

1 Km W of Farmhouse on Farmhouse Rd, Ptdo de Maderaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

15 January cont'd

refills with the periodic rains. Although I have not recorded it before in my journal, there is usually a Y-Legs (solitary) foraging on the puddle when we drive by, and occasionally one a small flock of WR, as today. We stopped to observe them in order to collect known territorial birds (see sp. accnt). Two collected, both territorial, and both juvenile ♂ (070, 071). Also saw 2 semipalmated plover on the puddle. Weather very windy, temp in high 70's, 0% cloud cover. Remained Remained until 1815.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Maderaga, Prcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

After drove set of observations continued on towards tower. Parked car ~200 m W of gate at entrance to Llanos from fallow corn field, just before ditch. We sat for 40 minits watching ruff-breasted sandpipers (see sp. accnt.) Made some behavioral observations on inferred sex, and took feeding behavior data. Rufous-backed negrito a major part of this community — all over the Llanos.

Grid 1 Area, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Maderaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Drove between part Grid 1 on way back from Tower Llanos. First shorebirds there in several days - a flock of 7 Pectorals flying (landed in Grid 9) and 3 Y-Legs landed. No WR. Two chick beside Grid 1 and looking down

16 January

1930 walked to Grid 1 from camp. Flock of ~10 shorebirds, one Pectoral and the rest WR, flew over but did not land. BW Stilts around. Few Y-Legs on Grid 9, and 3 GYL flying over. Grid 9 is at water level is similar to what it was 20-22 December, when I was making extensive observations on the grid. The contrast in shorebird numbers is striking. Grid 1 is still higher than it was when I began seeing extensive #'s of birds in the last cycle. One solitary WR flying and walked away at 2000.

Grid 4, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Maderaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

17 January

Left for Grid 4 at 0545, arriving at 0615 0630. First 100% overcast, light W wind, temp in 60's. A few drops of rain fell last night ~0300. The first 2 hours this morning at the grid were spent repairing cow damage. Not only were the guy wires broken (described earlier) but also ~30% of the stakes on Grid 4 had been uprooted, and 75% of those on Grid 1. The new grid we placed two weeks ago was all but gone. Cows had obviously spent the past night around the tower. Hay

Journal

17 January
cont'd

Grid 4, Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Maciariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

were ~~[illegible]~~ still there when we arrived, many as yet lying down ~~[illegible]~~ at the base of the tower, in the adjacent section of arroyo + the cattle drinking area, and on ~~the~~ Grid 7. Grass in 7 + surrounds was trampled, and the cows had performed the area with shit. I ran them off, and went to #4 to replace stakes. Lois remained by the car. She noted that as soon as the cows had left, or within a few minutes, a flock of WR, Buffies, + Golders appeared (50 all told) + settled in the "cowed" area. These birds were extraordinarily non-spooky, tolerating my close approach (15') when I returned from the grid. Most of them, particularly the WR, were working over fresh cowpies. My theory about why Hudsonian godwits have long upturned bills ~~there~~ doesn't hold for other shorebirds. 2 Lapwings on Grid 7 eating from the shit as well. After repairing the guy wires, we climbed onto the tower. 0810 [I should note that before the ascent we had fairly clear ~~[illegible]~~ calls of terrestrial WR + Buffy in the immediate vicinity of the tower (within 20m) and ~~[illegible]~~ sightings of 2 banded WR - see respective app. accnt.] First grid reading at 0820. During the morning, the weather remained cool, with the cloud cover eventually decreasing to 70% by 1100, and the wind (after becoming discouragingly strong from N) making an abrupt change to S at ~~@~~ 1100 precisely. I was quite pleased with Grid readings. Lois ~~[illegible]~~ took following info (not on grid) on ~~on~~ Buffy for over an hour (see app. accnt). Grid totals: 4a (2500 m², 5×5 m units; composed of units (1,0)(1,1); (2,0); (2,1) of 4b) [sp, ave number (range) total] Buff breasted sandpiper, 2 (0-5) 33; Golden Plover 1.7 (0-4) 27; White rumped swallow 2 (0-12) 51; Correndera pipit 0.2 (0-1) 3; Cow - (0-1) 1. 4b (5625 m², 25×25 m units): Buff-breasted Sandpiper 7.5 (4-12) 120; Golden Plover 3 (0-6) 98; White rumped swallow 1.7 (0-12) 31; Rufous backed negrito 0.1 (0-1) 2; Pseudoleistes virescens 0.5 (0-5) 8; Correndera pipit 0.3 (0-1) 4. Another cow pie was → Lesser Y leg; one appeared in drainage area at 0940 + began ~~[illegible]~~ pulsing! 1035 golden called - then all the local birds flew down toward arroyo. By 1040 wind was very difficult. Lois was impressed by the succession of birds using the drainage ditch cowpies - first the WR, Buffies + Golder flock. Within half an hour after the flock's arrival the density of birds had dropped. But there were a few more goldens, rufous-backed negritos, and S. Lapwings. During the rest of the morning there was

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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km. S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

17 January cont'd — always a set of birds there: 4-5 WR, a few Rufous backed Negritos, an occasional Buffy, the Lapwing or Golden. (+ the one LYLegs).

18 January — Arrived at tower 0620. Sky cloudless, temp at 0530 = 8°. Temp 0620 = 10°. No cows by tower (except dead bull in Arroyo). Shorebirds all over when we arrived - WR (32, none banded, visible from tower), Buffies, Goldens. 0640 there was some disturbance causing almost all birds within our vicinity to fly. By 0650 they the areas where they were have filled up again with birds WR on Llanos feeding from cowpies, many feeding in 50m stretch of sand between Arroyo + Llanos. Buffies both on Llanos + along edge. Goldens all around, one GYL in Arroyo. First reading - Grid 4. at 0655. 15 samples between 0655 and 1000. At 1000 we left. Grid totals: 4a Buffy 2.0 (0-6) 31; Golden Plover 1.6 (1-3) 24; Rufous backed negrito 0.1 ± (0-1) 2; Molothrus bonariensis - (0-1) 1. 4b: Buffy 6.3 (1-10) 95; Golden Plover 2.9 (2-9) 43; Rufous backed Negrito 0.2 (0-1) 3; Molothrus bonariensis - (0-1) 1; Pseudoleistes virescens 0.8 (0-7) 11; Cow - (0-1) 1. Disappointed by the fewness of our first reading of the grid. It looks as if the birds were much tighter when we arrived, and spread out between then + the first reading. I think that this was not an effect of our presence, but a typical part of the daily cycle. Further analysis.... 0745 Pichon (ranch hand) appeared to skin a dead bull ~75m from tower in the Arroyo. Did not appear to disturb the birds. Extensive notes on buffy behavior, inc. one definite territorial bird (see sp. acct)

1 Km W. of Farmhouse on Farmhouse road, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

After work at tower this morning we stopped by puddle by side of road where 15 January I'd collected territorial WR. Today there were more WR than at 1050. At least 6 WR there, perhaps 8-10. Puddle dried considerably, to the pt where more than

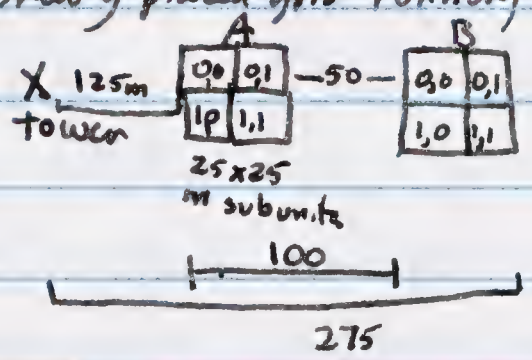
1 Km E. of Farmhouse on Farmhouse Rd, Estancia Medland, 35 Km. S. of Ivanchoby road, Rdón Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

18 January (cont'd)

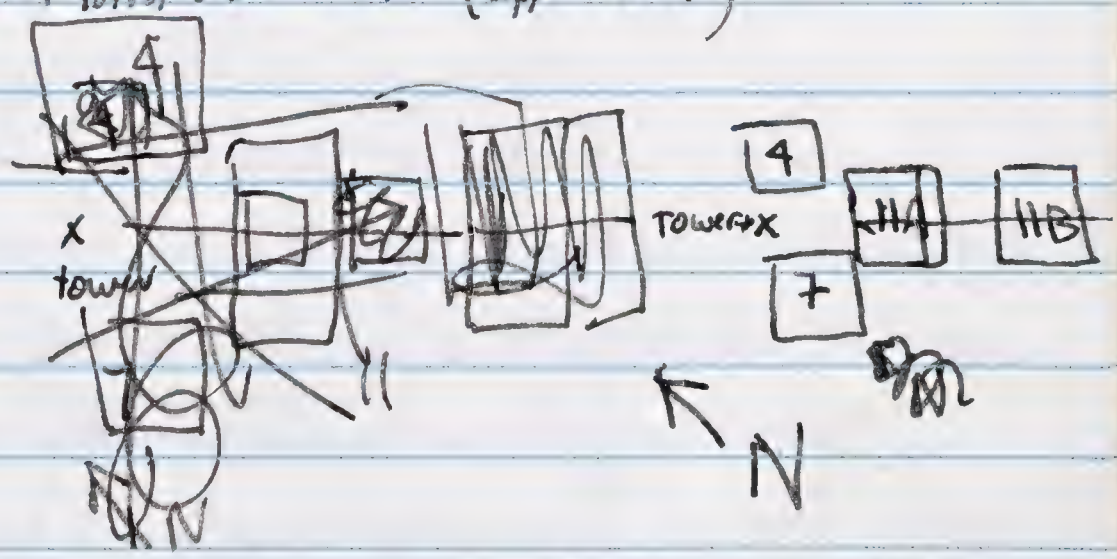
are 4 discrete puddles each less than 15 m long rather than the one long continuous one that had existed 1/15. Collected 2 territorial birds (072, ♂juv.; 075, ♀juv). See spp. accnt.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

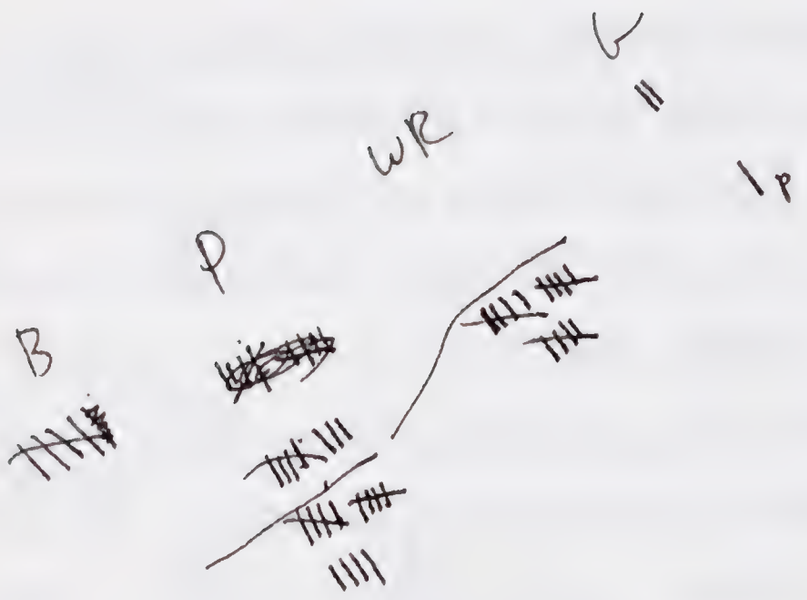
returned to tower 1700. Many birds left upon our arrival, but by 1730 the grid was again replete with buffies. However, at 1740 everyone flew. Large flights of birds started going over, + the birds golden + buffies around us joined them, going predominately in E. direction. Read Grid 4, Grid 7, + Grid II at 1800. (the latter two I repeated when we departed this morning. temp=24.5 cloudo = 10% Strong N wend. This reading was interesting: Grid II is a newly placed grid running 275 m along a transect headed SE from tower:



at this has a specified spatial relationship with Grids 4 + 7: (approx here)



At 1800, following the 1740 flight, only IIB (of all the units) had any birds, + they were distributed (0,0) = 1 golden; (0,1) = 1 buff-breasted; (1,0) = 1 Golden, 2 buff-breasted; (1,1) 6 Golden, 18 Buff breasted. However, within 7 minutes of the 1800 reading buffies + goldens were on II A and 7. Movement appeared to be gradual, + was accomplished almost entirely through foraging-le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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

18 January cont'd

walking while feeding, rather than flight to an area. Packed like. I should have noted that the 10740 flight was not a massed flock affair, but rather the action of many individuals (or so it appeared). By 1815 buffies were on Grid 4 - working on the ground from E to W. By 1830 they had reached the edge of the habitat at the arroyo. 1819 saw first aggressive behavior between buffies on grid. Not a See spp. accnt. 1854 found flock of WR, Pectorals, Goldens + Buffies out between 11A + 11B: 50 Buffbreasted, feeding; 8 Pectorals, preening 14 Peets resting; 15 WR resting, 2 Goldens, feeding, 2 goldens preening. These birds were grouped within the flock by species - pectorals with pectorals, WR - WR etc. But buffies feeding throughout, and goldens around the periphery. This flock was not present at 1830, + probably flew in ~1845. 1857 still there. 1858 banded WR (see spp accnt) 1903 - multispecific specific assemblage still there. 1912 - 54 WR roosting on beach. No pects, 3 buffies on outside of flock. WR divided into 3 groups, but all within 10 m x 10 m area. 1920 Multispecific flock of birds displaced by herd of sheep. Took final reading at 2005. During the last 3, it was apparent that the buffies were coalescing, forming tighter flocks, foraging without aggression despite proximity (see spp accnt). Grid totals for afternoon: (10 samples): Aa Buffbreasted 3.4 (0-10) 34; Golden Plover 2.0 (0-3) 20. Ab Buffy 8.1 (0-12) 81; Golden 3.1 (0-5) 31. Note that no other spp. were picked up in grid samples. Also have following data on one buffy.

Grid 9, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Above part #9 on return from Tower Llanos, ~2100. Flock of about 50 LY legs roosting in grid in area of heaviest Solanum (duraznillo) growth. First concentration of shorebirds that I've seen here since 5 January. Light was poor so that a scan for other spp. difficult. Saw no others obviously among the yellowlegs. 6 Pectorals flying over, but did not land.

JP Myers
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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, 35 Kms. S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

20 January

arrived on tower 0515. No buffies until 0535 when they arrived en masse. Although cows had broken 3 of 4 guy wires they were not in the immediate vicinity of the tower (≈1 Km to E). Extensive dead cover (70%), lightening on horizon. broke thermometer. Wind slight, ENE Many WR on beach. Rufous backed negritos foraging by 0545 ~~0600~~. 2 lapwings, + many goldens. First sample Grid 9 at 0545. 2 Banded WR spotted early in morning (age apparent). Some intraspecific aggression on grid between Blt-WR, but most is intraspecific. We were chased from tower at 0800 by thunderstorm. Grid totals 9a: Buff breasted 4.1 (1-8) 37; Golden 3 (2-9) 27; ~~white rumped~~ S. lapwing 0.9 (0-3) 8; WR Swallow — (0-1) 1; Correndera pipit 0.2 (0-1) 2. 9b Buff breasted 9.8 (2-15) 87; Golden 4.9 (3-6) 43; White rump sandpiper 0.2 (0-2) 2; Southern lapwing 2.3 (2-3) 21; WR swallow 0.8 (0-5) 7; Correndera pipit 0.6 (0-3) 5.

23 January

all times henceforth are Argentine Daylight saving — last night Peron caused the switch as an energy saving device. So what was before 0500 is now 0600, etc. Arrival on Llanos at 0600, repaired guy wires, + climbed into tower. temp 0530 = 19 IV Light at 0700 = 700 ftcandles. Last evening we came out to tower and placed Grid 10 between the tower and (8,0) of 9b. 25x25m, 5x5 units This is an area in which we have been seeing many buffies. [I should mention that yesterday evening a flock of 7 Hudsonian godwits landed briefly on 9a, and that some of the campsites in the area had typical H.G. probing holes.] This morning at 0701 ~~the~~ a Hudsonian G. flew onto Grid 10. Buffies, S. lapwings, golden plovers, and white-rumps are in the vicinity foraging. First grid reading at 0700, temp = 14.5°. Wind mod SE, clouds = 40% (+ growing). 0730 Ruddy turnstone on sandy part of beach; white rumps, Ch. falklandicus, G. plover. 4 Y Legs and H. Godwits near tower on beach. S lapwing aggression in (01)(02)(12) of 9b — there is an almost fledged chick foraging in that region. See the 0730 9a, 9b grid reading for a clear demonstration of the effect of the chick-centered lapwing aggression. From 0730 - 0900 took buffy following data on Grid 10, + then have a gap in

Journal

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Junchos by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

23 January (cont'd)

the grid readings. Combined with a series of following data for buffies by both Lois + myself during the morning we have a very good picture of the way in which the buffies divide up grid 10. (see sp. accnt). Southern lapwing aggression during the morning in (0,1), (0,2), (1,1), (1,2) of 4b created a state of flux in the shorebird dispersion that was difficult to handle because of the instability. It is particularly evident in the 730, 900 and 1000 readings. The birds are chased out of these regions, they go into the contiguous areas of (0,1), (1,1) and all of (2,1) and (2,0) and then begin working back. this creates a cyclical pattern in the dispersion, because once they work their way back far enough the lapwings chase again. During the afternoon buffy density on Grid 10 decreased dramatically. Grid 10 totals ~~36~~ 36 samples Buffie 2.5 (0-5) 93 White-rump sniper 0.2 (0-1) 8; Golden Plover 0.2 (0-1) 7; H. godwit 0.1 (0-1) 5; WR Swallow – (0-1) 1; Geositta cunicularia 0.8 (0-2) 30; Correndera pipit – (0-1) 2; Zonotrichia – (0-1) 2. Buffy density – Grid 10 before noon (13 samples) was 5.8/sample. Afternoon (23 samples) = 2.2/sample. Grid 4a (14 samples) Buff-breasted Sniper 4.9 (2-7) 68; Golden Plover 2.1 (0-5) 32; H. godwit 1.6 (0-6) 22; S. lapwing 0.4 (0-3) 5; Pseudoleistes virescens – (0-1) 1; Anthus correndera – (0-1) 2; Rufous backed negrito 0.3 (0-3) 4; WR swallow 0.4 (0-5) 6. Grid 4b (contains 4a): Buff-breasted Sandpiper 9.6 (5-12) 135; Golden Plover 3.1 (0-6) 44; Hudsonian Godwit 2.6 (1-6) 36 S. lapwing 1.9 (0-6) 26; Pseudoleistes virescens 0.3 (0-3) 4; C. pipit – (0-1) 2; R. b. negrito 0.5 (0-4) 7; WR swallow 0.4 (0-5) 6; Cow 1. (0-8) 15. Cow – (0-1) 2

24 January

We arose ~~am~~ before dawn and were at the tower before the sun lit the horizon (0650 ADST) Temp at 0600 = 13.5°. No wind, 20% cloud cover (coming from NE). must be wind at higher level.

Effort this morning directed at obtaining additional buffie following data against which to compare contrast with yesterday's data. This turned out to be more difficult than anticipated (+ no equally interesting) because of the more transient character of most of the buffies we followed. One seemed to be the same bird as yesterday, several others could

Tower Haros, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

24 January (cont'd) have been, but they all left before we could get a complete set of following data (see sp. accnt).
Grid 10 totals (11 samples) Buff-breasted Spiper 1.5 (0-3) 17; Golden Plover 0.3 (0-1) 3;
Hgoldwit -(0-1) 1; WR swallow 1 (0-5) 10; R.b. Wgrifto -(0-1) 1; C pipit 0.3 (0-1) 3; Zono. strichia -(0-1) 1

27 January arrived at Tower at 0430 - drizzle, cool with s/wind. Put up nets, one on Grid 10 and one on 9a. remained until 0800. Caught 1 g plover (+banded), one WR ump. Also caught one common pipit.

Farmhouse Rd, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

8 February Drove across Farmhouse Rd on return to Estancia from Asuncion, Paraguay at 2030. It is apparent that in our absence there has been little if any rain, for the land + ponds are much drier. No shorebirds (excluding Vanellus) seen at Rte 11 pond, nor anywhere else until reaching the Grid 1-9 area, i.e. Farmhouse Pond. The sun was setting behind Grid 1, so it was difficult to see more than the birds silhouettes. WR, Ped's + LY legs present. Grid 1 is dryer now than it has been since before the heavy rains in early December 1973. It looks as if my absence from the area, at least as far as #1 is concerned, was untimely - much of the action appears to be over.

9 February 1930 walked out 1 Km along Farmhouse Rd west of the farm house. Fewer than 20 WR and 10 Peckards in vicinity of Grid 1-9, although it appears that they may be roosting there this evening. By 2115 (sunset 2100) there were still WR + Peets on the grid, with 25% resting with bills tucked or preening. Strong SE wind, heavy overcast.

10 February 1400 left Farmhouse + walked out to beyond Grid 9. Then cut north, going ~500 m in through + along the E edge of the tule swamp. Rained - light drizzle - most of the time that I was out. Throughout the day a strong SE wind blew, with stretches of moderate - light rain. Accumulated ~15 mm. Swamp water level fallen over 1' since mid-January. This meant that a considerable portion heretofore inaccessible due to deep water can now be entered. However, it did not help very much, and found no new shorebird areas. The paucity of sandpipers is depressing - fewer than 20 WR + 5 Peets in 3 hours. Did see 2 Painted snipe, spooking them from along the edge of the tule. Returned to camp via dirt track E of swamp at 1700.

J.P. Myers
1974

Journal

Estancia Meadeland, 35 Km S. of Ivanchoy by road, Ptdo de Maipu, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

11 ~~January~~ February

Left camp 0930 driving along Farmhouse Rd to Rt 11 pond. 7 WR and 1 Peeta in pond between road + ~~bridge~~ Grid 9 - non banded. 1 Pint LYL in Grid 1, as well as ~5 BNs. No calidris ibines. Several Peets along pond to S. of grid. Absolutely no Golden Plovers nor buffies between there and Rt 11 pond, ~~nowhere~~ in the fallow corn field through which the road passes. There I was always sure of seeing 50+ goldens - even up to the time that we left for Asuncion (28 January). 1 lone WR in Arroyo Chico by bridge, 1 H. godwit. At Rt 11 pond I drove both S to the end of the pond (1 lone Pectoral), up into the field west and above it (nothing in the way of goldens or buffies) + N along the pond to the fence, ~300 m (3 peets, one WR, several LYL + 6 YL.). Many Vanellus, including several groups of 3+, and one of ~~about~~ 6 or 7 bird. Then, back on the farmhouse road, I ~~drove~~ returned to Arroyo Chico, + cut N immediately after crossing the bridge. Followed Ao. Chico to fence. Along the arroyo between the bridge + the fence ~10 WR, 1 Buff-breasted, 2 H. Godwits, and several (~5) Charadrius falklandicus. The buffy was in an area just by the fence where cows had obviously spent a lot of time (judging from the density of cow shit.). WR along the edge of the arroyo. From the Arroyo I cut ~~south~~ east along the fence to the first gate (the usual one for reaching the tower) - NO Buffies ~~at~~ visible along that stretch, nor anywhere between the gate + the tower except for a flock of 6 spooked out of the thistle patch just before reaching the tower. This is an incredible change - I have never entered the tower Llano before without seeing at least 20 buffies between the fence + the thistles. No birds on any of the grids by the tower, & except for a few WR + ~10 Ch. falk. in the Arroyo. Also the flock of buffies which I had spooked. 2 Golden Plovers in the arroyo. Driving N from the tower to the next fence I spooked a flock of ~50 Buffies. ~~Then~~ I followed the Arroyo, went through the next gate, + returned to the Arroyo. Then, at 1130 I found a BANDED WR!! - Right Yellow, Left Green - banded 1 January on Grid 9. He was in the arroyo with ~5 other WR. He was ~~then~~ feeding, ~~right on one of the Grid grids - the one that goes through a fence~~ See sp accent. It was encouraging to see that the birds were not spooked by

Journal

Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 February (Cont'd)

my movements in the car. I continued along the Arroyo to the N, until reaching the next fence. No more banded WR, although ~20 WR total, as well as numerous Ch. falk. At the fence I cut E, following it to the a gate, through which I passed, and then headed NE across the fields. The fields here are a higher variety of grass than Tower Haros - ~ 8"-1" very little looks like prime buffy habitat. Came across 1 flock of rhea with 2 adult ♂ and 43 chicks of 2 size classes (roughly 50-50) the chicks were between 1/2 + 3/4 adult size. Another group of rhea, 10 birds, one obvious chick 3/4 size, the others perhaps less than adult. Followed the field in this direction >2 Km, until it ended in a long thin lagoon-swamp. A few Pectorals (≥5), several WR (♂) and several LYL, as well as a flock of Brown-headed gulls were using the area. By heading N I was able to cut around the end of the swamp + go E again, ~~[illegible] just passed~~. Much of the land over which I was passing had obviously recently emerged from surface water. Vegetation was a 2' high tuft grass which made passage in the car difficult. ~~Continuing~~ ~~reached~~ the Grass continued to thicken, and patches of greener material belied the fact that the land continued to get wetter. It soon became impossible to go on, so I went W of the swamp + cut S, going through 2 gates. The second gate carried me into a region continuous (i.e. not separated by fence) with Tower Haros, although further E than I had been because of an extensive swamp-lagoon between the Haros + the area I was now in. The area appeared very similar in vegetation to Tower Haros - short grass, less than 2" high, occasional thistle. Classic buffy-golden habitat. And I found a few - 1 buffy + 6 golden. Although from the car it was impossible to see open H_2O, I saw a Trudeau's tern diving over the swamp-lagoon, so I got out + hiked over to investigate. A considerable body of open H_2O stretching intermittently in N-S direction several hundred meters, broken by shallower tule areas, ~100 m across at widest. Since it is fairly very shallow, but the presence of Fulica + B-Necked Swans, Roseate Spoonbills, + especially Great grebes indicates that deeper water is also present. Approaching from the E, a 50 m strip of tuft-grass vegetation is still submerged in water. Within this strip, particularly nearer the main body of water, I found 6 Painted Snipe. They allowed me to approach closer than ever before, although I have yet to see one before it has flown. One flock of ~50 WR flying along the SW side of the lagoon. I then returned to the Farmhouse - it was necessary to retrace my route back through the last gate because advance in either N or E direction from the E side of this Swamp-Lagoon was cut off by tall grass and/or water. No buffies or golden plover on Tower Haros.

Journal

Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 February cont'd

Weather during the morning was generally overcast, with low clouds coming in/a wind out of the W. Temperature was warm, in the low - mid 70's.

12 February

Up at 4 to met-wind picked up + drizzle started with a sharp drop in temperature so I decided not to. Instead walked S from camp in the Pampas grass beyond the poplar stand and collected a Junaiiid (079)

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs Aires, Argentina.

1500 drove from camp through Tower Llanos to the Arroyo, coming out on it at the tower. Drove from the tower to the far end of the linear grid, 3 Km N along the arroyo, looking for banded WR. Then returned via the same route (driving on the upper edge of the sand along the arroyo), searching again + at the same time making a careful count of WR along the water's edge. In the 3 Km found 64 WR foraging, + just beyond the S most unit of the grid, i.e. at the bend in the Arroyo visible to the S from the tower, came upon a flock of 59 roosting, fledging preening and feeding WR - at 1740 3 banded birds: R Yellow L Green - banded 15 Jan 79, Grid 9 was where I found him yesterday; defending a territory on one of the grid units; R Red L Red - banded 27 January Grid 10 was in linear Grid subunit #2; R Yellow L Red - banded 1 January Grid 9 - was in linear Grid subunit #1 by the tower. Also seen

We remained by the flock of WR for over one hour, trying to catch a glimpse of their legs as the resting ones preened, fidgeted etc. No more banded birds apparent. A total of 10-15 buffies came down to the Arroyo from the E to drink + bath during this time period - usually one by one. Many brown-headed gulls present, 2 B-N Skimmers, a small flock of BN Stilts, and over 20 Charadrius falklandicus were in the close vicinity of the WR flock. By the time we left at 1830 the WR flock had dwindled to a total of fewer than 30 birds - those leaving ~~an~~ normally flew to the E, departing in small flocks of up to 10 birds. Before reaching the flock we had seen 2 Pluvialis squatarola! - a first for the Estancia this year, and 4 golden plovers.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

From the Arroyo we drove due E across the Llanos ~ 2 Km until reaching the swamp where I had been yesterday (although on the opposite side). Parking the car, I got on the roof to watch for shorebirds. Temperature in low 70's, wind mod from S, with low dark clouds coming in with the wind. From the NW a high cloud cover also was approaching, making light levels darker than they normally are by this hour. Many shorebirds were at the swamp when we

JPMyers
1974

Journal

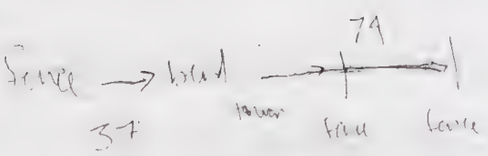
Tower Llanos

Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivanchoby road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires Argentina

12 February — arrived. It was impossible to count because of the many obstructions provided by vegetation. >20 LY legs; >10 GL legs; >10 S. lapwings; a flock of over 50 WR, plus at least 2 small flocks of 10+ birds each; >20 Pectorals (probably a gross underestimate. No stilt sandpipers (I have not seen any for several weeks) nor any golden plovers. We remained at the swamp until 2030. Small flights of sandpipers + yellow legs continued to come in; NONE left. The behavior of the large flock of WR (mixed w/ Pectorals) was particularly suggestive of roosting birds. One Painted Snipe - foraging in shallow water, open bill probing the mud - seen about 1930. While sitting on the roof I saw ~12 buff-breasted sandpipers flying E and 2 flying west. None of these showed any inclination toward landing in the swamp. The birds going east (largest group was 4 birds) continued over the swamp, 2 settling in the Llanos area I discovered yesterday, the other 10 continuing until (it looked like - very far) they reached the trench-sedge / short grass habitat where we had our November camp. Recall Hunt + I found buffies coming in by camps then to roost.

Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

13 February — 0930 Araceli Heici, the caretaker's daughter, brought horses around for the 3 of us. She, Lois, + I spent the next 5.5 hours searching for sandpipers in an area to the NE + N from the farmhouse; the morning was cool (70's) and sunny, with low puffy cumulus clouds building + blowing over during the morning. Wind light from S, growing to moderate by 1500. From the farmhouse we went NNE along the line of windmills, reaching the second windmill (~3 Km) by 1130. We searched back and forth across the strip of short grass habitat which exists between the trench-sedge & the E + beginnings of covered dune to the E. To the W we also went as far as through the trench sedge to the line of swamps + lagoons extending parallel, N-S. In the short grass habitat there were no golden plovers. ~~We saw a few along the road~~ Since our arrival in November, until now, (last trip out here was before trip to Asuncion, i.e. before 28 January) there have always been numerous goldens in this area. We found a total of 6 buff-breasted sandpipers - their numbers are also down considerably. Along the line of swamps, particularly in the vicinity of the first windmill, were small flocks of white rumps. No more than 50 were seen along the stretch. However, we certainly missed some as their ponds and mud flats are often invisible from a distance through the trench grass (grass not sedge) in which they repose to extend to the edge of the numerous small lagoons;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JP Myers
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Journal

Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

13 February (cont'd) Water from the lagoons has only recently receded from way beyond the ~~no~~ limits defined by the beginning of the ~~bunch~~ grass, ~~and~~ Now, where the bunch grass opens ever so slightly, ~3' are stretches of mud, and within these can occasionally be found WR. Suitable mud is quickly retreating however, and soon this area will be dry except for a few major swamps. At the E most edge of several of the small pools still reasonably full Gallinago gallinago flew up at our approach. Many Vanellus. From the second windmill we drove NW, following the fence which runs through a major tule swamp + open lagoon. Water there was deep enough to almost reach my boots in the stirrups. Along the edge of the ~~water~~ open water, in the tule, were many vegetation rafts - looking like the remains of ibis' nests, but now often covered with Nutria droppings. Once across the swamp we turned S + followed it to the next gate. Passing through, we entered a field I had found 11 February - a strip of short grass surrounded on both sides by swamps. One flock of 6 golden plovers and 5 buff-breasted sandpipers were foraging in the short grass habitat. The swamp E of this field was the area I had watched last night, and also entered 11 February. No ~~shorebirds~~ WR were obvious; spooked one Painted snipe, saw several L Y Legs. We followed the strip of short grass field SE to its end, seeing only one more golden, several Vanellus, and one buffies. At the end we cut W, crossing the Tower Llanos + going through the gate which we usually use to reach the tower. Then E along the fence, following it + another fence until reaching the farmhouse dirt + returning to camp.

Struck by the absence of Spectacled tyrants!

Tower Llanos Swamp, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1430 ~~Left~~ drove out to Tower Llanos and to the swamp, ~~which~~ at the east end where 12 February I found roosting White-rumps and pectorals. We set up 2 nets, flushed them, + waited until sunset to put them down. Temp 70's, cloud cover dropped from 30% - C at sunset (2100), wind died just before then. Walking along the edge of the marsh in the 200 m stretch between nets ~~#~~ & Painted Snipe flew before me in one passage (between the nets) - most of them were concentrated in one region. The shorebird situation was nearly identical to that the other day. Throughout the evening, before sunset, small flocks of WR, Pects, L * G Y Legs flew in to the marsh. The majority of WR that I saw coming in approached from the N. No exclusively Pect flocks sighted, although I saw a few Hudsonian Godwits. 1 flock of 15 buffies flew over + continued east, losing elevation + ~~out~~ after passing over the marsh. ~~Attacked~~ Banded 7 White-rump, 1 Charadrius falklandicus, and 3 Painted snipe. Also salvaged 1 WR (C82) and 2 Painted snipe (C80, C81). See WR + Painted Snipe spp accts.

Journal

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

14 February — 1930 drove from the fence at the S end of Tower Ranch where it crosses the Arroyo to the N end of the linear grid, a winding distance of ~4 Km. Counted WR's, looking for banded birds. found R Yellow L Green, see sp. acent The water has dropped noticably in the last 2 days, exposing more sandbars, and connecting old ones with the shore. Birds were spookier than 13 February, with even some of the WR flying in front of the car. Thus the count may be less accurate. A total of 111 White-rumps, see sp. acent, ~10 buffies, at least 30 Charadrius falklandicus, 2 golden plover, ~5 Hudsonian godwit, ~10 G-Y Legs, several L-Y L, several B-N Shilt. The survey took 45 minutes. We had planned to repair the linear grid but rain threatened immediately, so we returned to camp in order to save yesterday's specimens. Of course it didn't rain. Temperature all day never rose above 68°. Wind light - moderate from SW, clouds 20-40° until 1700, when they became 100%.

15 February — reached S end of Arroyo Chico in Tower Ranch at 1050 and began driving slowly north along the edge of the Arroyo. Temperature 14°C, slight wind from S, low small cumulus covering 30-50% of sky. The water level does not appear to have changed appreciably since yesterday. We covered the 4 Km in 55 minutes - the count is divided into the 1st Km + the last 3, because the last 4 of the linear grid runs the last 3: Species, # in 1st/# in 2-4: White rump 22/77; Buffy 3/10; Hudsonian godwit 7/2; Greater Y legs 3/6; Golden plover 2/1; Charadrius falklandicus 15/58; Southern Lapwing 5/17; Black-necked stilt 0/7; Brown-headed gull 24/26; Neotropic cormorant 0/5; Southern Screamer 2/4; Speckled teal 4/7; Y b pintail 0/2; cocoi heron 1/0; Rufous backed negrito 1/1. Two banded white rump: R red L red (spotted 12 February in approximately the same position; banded 27 January grid 10): beyond the N end of linear grid subunit #2; R Yellow L Green (spotted Feb 11, 12, and 19 in same position) at the N end of linear grid subunit #4, territorial. After finishing the count we worked slowly back, repairing the grid from the various of course high water, searching for banded birds on the way. Finished at 1930. R Yellow L Green was on territory all afternoon, until 1900 at least. R red L red was gone when we passed by at 1410. Found R orange L yellow (banded 15 January Grid 5 in Arroyo Chico) at N end of subunit #2, 1910. A few buffies seen at and S of subunit #2 bathing past 1900. Besides repairing the grid, we placed 2 new small ties along the arroyo, one in a linear grid on the territory of R Yellow L Green in order to facilitate following data. The second just beyond subunit 5 in an area of heavy high WR usage. This was a 2 dimensional grid 3x8 units, as shown

Journal

Linear grid Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

16 February — at subunit 5 by 0530 for banding. Temp = 13°C. slight S wind, 100% clouds the cloud cover began to come
No. red-winged or spotted tinamou calling anymore.
over at 0345 while we were still in camp. Because of 100% clouds, time that sun hit horizon was impossible to
ascertain, but must have been between 0700 and 0715 ADST. First light detectable ~0620. When we drove up
the Arroyo to subunit 5 (entering Arroyo at 0510) - two were southern lapwing, Charadrius falklandicus,
one roseate spoonbill, but no white-rumps. First WR heard at 0640. Netted 5 WR and 3 Ch. falk.,
banding all of them (see band schedule.) Had nets down by 0800. Immediately went to the
end of the linear grid, subunit 10, and at 0840 began sampling. First sample took 1 hour. We then
drove to the S end of the Arroyo (where it leaves tower llanos), took a short break (watching
6 neotropic cormorant fishing up-stream - herding the fish, it would seem, a la Bartholomew,
in water barely deep enough to hide their backs) + then counted total birds along the arroyo
as yesterday. Totals: (Fence - band, band to grid, along linear grid) 1000 AM - 1105 AM White-rump
22, 0, 56; Buff-breasted sandpiper 2, 0, 0; Hudsonian godwit 1, 0, 0; Greater Yellow 1, 0, 0;
Golden Plover 1, 0, 0; Charadrius falklandicus #16/3/48; Southern lapwing 5, 0, 16; BN Stilt
0, 0, 3; Brown-headed gull 8, 0, 17; Neotropic cormorant 12, 0, 3; Southern screamer 2
Speckled teal 0, 0, 20; Cocoi Heron 1, 0, 0; Rufous bached wrenpipit 3, 0, 2. I have divided the count
as I have because in order to 1) separate out the linear grid counts, and 2) to make the
count comparable to yesterday's, when ~100 m S of the linear grid (the second measurement)
was included in the linear grid count. Henceforth this 100 m will be excluded in the 1st measurement.
Distances for counts sampled for each measurement are: 1 Km, 100 m, 3 Km. At 1130 we ran the linear
grid again. While making the count (for which totals are given above) a corrected
effort was made to find banded birds. Results: R orange L yellow in subunit #2:
6. it flew upstream 150 m; R red L red, between subunits 2+3; R yellow L green - on
territory as before; R yellow L yellow, green - grid 12; R yellow L yellow, orange - grid 8;
R yellow, L orange yellow, beyond grid 12. A total of 6 banded birds out of
36. 1150 - 9 white chicks + 1 adult in field east of subunit #8.
Grid totals (2 samples, 1 Km of Arroyo spread over 3 Km (100 m every 333): (for further explanation see Journal 24 February)
White rump 24 (24) 48; Charadrius falklandicus 19 (15-23) 38; Southern lapwing 5.5 (4-7) 11

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Lurican Grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Middeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Machuraga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

16 February (Cont'd)

Buffy — (0-1)1; H. godwit — (0-1)1; G Y Legs 1(0-2)2; 3 brown headed gull 1(0-2)2 Cow 5.5(0-11)11.

0515 we were back in the Arroyo, and began reading the Lurican grid again. The number of WR foraging on grid units was down perceptibly even without resorting to counting totals. Also Charadrius falk. appeared to be fewer. ~~#t t d d t~~ I encountered a number of individuals of both species up away from the edge of the wet sand, resting. They were not near the grid + thus not included, even if on a strip of sand level with one of the subunits. By two units (7+8) and just beyond the ends of the grids, were flocks of bathing WR (5 and 8 WR respectively). After finishing this run we drove to the territory of Right Y L Green and took 60 min. of following data (see sp. accnt.) Then at 0 1930 began another sample of the grid. WR numbers returned to more previous levels of other days. We finished this reading at 2001 ~~0005~~. By this time birds were beginning to flock (see sp. accnt). Returning to Grid 12, took one sample at 2015. then went to the end of the grid and driving along the sand, counted all birds within + between subunits on both sides of the arroyo to the end of the grid. A total of 91 WR were in the Arroyo then, 27 on the subunits and 64 between. Grid totals for the afternoon: Lurican Grid: White rump 20.5 (14-27)91; Charadrius falk/andicus 16.5 (14-19) 33; G Y legs 1.5 (1-2) 3; L Y legs 0.5 (0-1) 1; S. lapwing 14.5 (9-20) 29; B.H. gull 3.5 (2-5) 7; Trudeau's tern 0.5 (0-1) 1; B N Stilt 0.5 (0-1) 1; Speckled teal 8 (6-10) 16; R.b Negrito 0.5 (0-1) 1; C. pipit 0.5 (0-1) 1; Maguari Stork 0.5 (0-1) 1; Cow 3.5 (0-7) 7. 2 other things of interest — large flocks of Pseudoleistes virescens (see sp. accnt); small flock of Fork-tailed flycatcher in Arroyo; the first of these birds I've seen for several days; they appear to be migrating already.

17 February

Began sampling Lurican grid 0850 from subunit 1 completed at 0925. ~~Total~~. Ran only once; Totals: White-rump 18; Ch. falk. 17; S. lapwing 7; BN Stilt 1; Brown-headed gull, 3; Cocoi Heron, 1; Hudsonian Godwit, 1; Conurodera pipit; 1; Speckled teal 1. ~~#~~ Weather was cool (13.5°) with a heavy overcast (cloud = 90%, VC = 1000 ft). After completing the sample I returned to near subunit 3 in order to observe on Grid 12. Took 4 samples, each at 5 min. intervals

JP Myers
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Linear Grid, Arroyo Chico Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 February (cont'd) from 0930 to 0945. Totals: White rump 4.3 (4-5) 17; Charadrius falklandicus 1.8 (1-2) 7; S. lapwing 0.5 (0-1) 2. Three banded birds appeared in these data, a W Rump (R.y L.y.g.) and a Ch. falk. (R.r.) (see sp. accent) in Grid 12, and R.y.L.c.y in subunit 10 of the linear grid. Driving down the arroyo after leaving subunit 5 I passed the territory of R.y L.g., + found this WR ~75 m upstream, not on the territory. 5 sheep, one Ch. falk. and 2 BN Stilt were there instead.

Farmhouse, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Cnel. J. Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

18 February 10 15 drove north from the farmhouse after coming back from the linear grid. Went beyond the first windmill by ~200 m and in order to collect bufflies. After a few minutes search I found one, shooting but only wounding. After following it a while I found other bufflies which gathered after the shot I managed to collect 3 (c&3, 084, c.85).

Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

We were unable to return to the Estancia this evening after a day in Mar del Plata because of torrential rains. The Estancia received 27 mm, Mar del Plata getting 37.

Linear Grid, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

20 February 0920 arrived at subunit 1 of grid 10 with Pablo Cancerari, WC = 660 ft asl, temp = 15°, wind mod from S. C clouds. On the way from the farmhouse we sighted the first Oreopholus ruficollis - one solitary individual in the short grassland alongside the road before reaching the turn off to Tower Hanos. Totals on linear Grid: White rumps, 35; Charadrius falklandicus, 18; H. godwit 2; BN Stilt 7; S lapwing 1; B.H. gull 6; Speckled teal 2, Red Shoveler 2. Returning from the grid we searched the arroyo: From end to Grid 12: 51. Grid 12 - 8 to subunit 5: 20 (3 Banded RyLyr, RyLyg, and 1 Ch. Falk Rr.), From 5 to end of subunit #1: 11. A total of 85. Then from there to the fence 22, or a total of 107. During the morning while working Grid 12 on the linear grid we passed grid 4 and grid 10, which had bufflies on them.

~~Tower Hanos, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina~~

1850 we ran the grid again Temperature at onset - 18°, clouds 80%, wind light from SE. Grid totals: 2 samples White-rump 34 (33-35) 68; Charadrius falklandicus. 19 (10-18); H. godwit 1.5 (1-2) 3; BN Stilt 4 (1-7) 8; Southern Lapwing 3.5 (1-6) 7

Journal

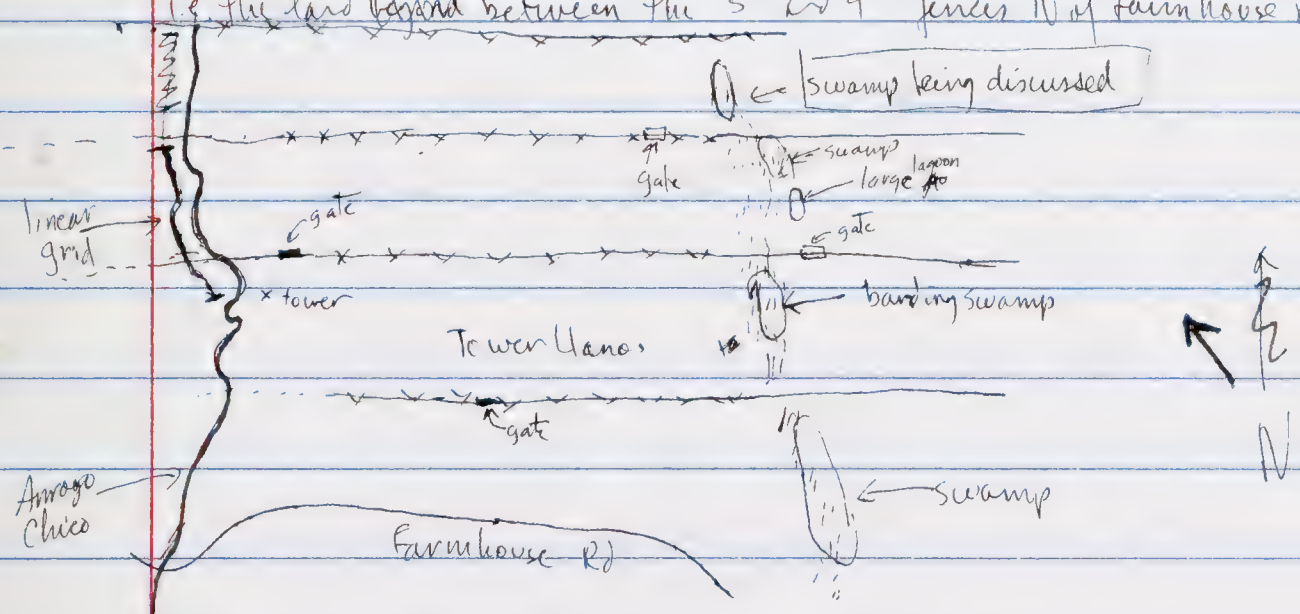
Linear grid Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Tvancho, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

20 February (cont'd) B. Headed gull 4.5 (3-6) 9, Speckled teal 1.5 (1-2) 3; Red Shoveler 1 (0-2) 2. After running the grid we drove to the swamp at the east end of tower Llanos, arriving at ~ 2000. 200+ WR, many G + L Y legs, some Hudsonian godwits, Charadrius falklandicus (including one banded bird, 81202818), but one melanotos at most despite a thorough search. Nycticorax again common

21 February at submit 5-grid 12 area by 0545 w/ Pablo Canevari for netting Potrero 4 W. Temp 13 at c 500, heavy overcast appearing in sky after a clear night. No wind. Sleet rain just before dawn. After Driving along the arroyo on the way to the netting site we encountered 3 groups of roosting Ch. falklandicus, all right one each in the 3 arroyo cuts along the main arroyo. Spotlighted one of the plovers, + banded (Left yellow). 16 WR were on the shore as we drove along. One vizcacha seen running into holes by submit 4. WR arrived at 0642. Banded 9 WR, 1 Ch. falklandicus, and one Himantopus. First recaptures: ✗ Ry Lyg; Ry Lyr; Rg Lr.

Potrero beyond end of linear grid Potrero, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Looking for Pectorals we drove to the swamp in the potrero beyond the end of the linear grid, i.e. the land beyond between the 3rd and 4th fences N of farmhouse road:



There were no pectorals present, though I had found several there 11 February (see journal) However, re-sighted one WR (RgL●) banded 2/18 in Tower Llanos Swamp in said swamp.

Linear Grid, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

2000 began running linear grid again. temp 15°, Clouds - 0, wind light SE.

totals: White rump 42, Charadrius falklandicus 16, G-Y legs 7, BA Shrike 3, Southern Lapwing 6, Brown headed gull 7, Neotropical cormorant 1, Speckled teal 3, Rufous bached negrito, 1. At 2039 the sun was crossing the horizon, I began sampling

Journal

Linear Grid, Estancia Medland, ~~Pdo~~ 35 km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Maipu, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

27 February (cont'd) grid 12. Sampled also at 0849 totals WRump 5(5-5)10; Charadrius falklandicus 1.5(1-2)3; Southern lapwing 1.5(1-2)3 ~~All flocks left~~ Most birds left within 10 minutes of sunsetting - in fact all but 4 flew at 2056. Returning along Arroyo we found Ch. falklandicus + G-Y legs at roost.

22 February Arrived at Grid 12 0640 No WR in ~~on~~ Arroyo on our way, although Ch. falk were present in small groups as seen other mornings. G-Y legs and Skuas calling before we got there. Nothing on ~~the~~ pan twice to expected arrival, but heard at 0641. Timing remarkably similar to previous days, despite complete overcast. One yerzacha seen en route. Arroyo visibly higher this morning than it was last night by many meters ~~second~~ feet of surface area. Water extends all the way to the south end of the grid in an inlet whereas last night it stopped 25 m short. 0711 saw first non-feeding birds. Began taking samples at 0715 when 1VI recalled 4 Ch. falklandicus. However by mistake I erased a series of grid samples taken between 0717 and 0800, losing notes dictated concurrently as well. Lois began following duties at 0730. During the morning we followed 4 birds, including one banded WR (see sp. accts) remained until 1140. @ 19 samples totals: White rump 27(0-7)90; Charadrius falklandicus 2.9(0-2)27; Black necked stilt 0.3(0-1)5; Southern lapwing -(0-1)1; Brown-headed gull -(0-1)2. The grid this morning was ~~had more water under than yesterday~~ Sky cleared to 0 clouds during morning, light wind. Temp = 14°.

Tower Manor Swamp, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Maipu, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1600 carried blind into swamp at the end of tower Manor + placed it in position beside road used by WR, G+L Y legs, + other shorebirds. Sat in the blind until 0830, with very poor luck; only one flock of WR approached within photographing distance, + they were quickly spooked by S. lapwings nesting here. Saw/heard 3 pectorals. Over 200 WR. At least 60 G+L Y legs. Resighted one CWR - RgLy (banded 13 Feb in this swamp) Leaving the swamp at 0845 we drove out of the dense high grass bordering the swamp to the W + entered the short grass area of Tower Manor. Within 100 m of the edge was a large flock of buffies preening + feeding. Light poor, but made 3 counts - 80, 76, and 81.

Linear Grid, Grid 12, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Maipu, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Driving up the Arroyo toward grid 12 at 0850 we found RgLy, on his territory. Then proceeded to grid 12. + took 4 readings. totals: White-rump 6.5(5-13)26;

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22 February (cont'd)

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Charadrius falklandicus 7(0-2)4; Black-necked stilt 0.25(0-1)1. Sky was clear, temp = 15°; light extremely low (<10 ft-candles), the sun having set almost 0.5 hrs. previously (see WR spot acct).

23 February

Began banding at subunit #5 of linear grid, and grid 12, in Arroyo Chico this morning before dawn. When I arrived there was a low fog covering much of the Llanos + thickening in patches in the Arroyo. But it receded from 10 m up; stars usually perceptible through the mist. WR arrival at 0642 — this was ~10 min after I began hearing G/Ylegs and Charadrius falklandicus. Banded 13 WR and 4 Ch. falklandicus. Spent afternoon in blind

Tower Llanos Swamp, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Spent afternoon ensconced in blind in swamp where I left it yesterday. Despite the limited visibility from the blind, I recorded #'s of shorebirds detected during half-hour time periods, until it became apparent that the birds were still not habituated to the blind. Totals:

	White rump	G/Ylegs	L/Ylegs
1630-1700	12	3	3
1700-1730	16	0	2
1730-1800	52	10	14
1800-1830	12	1	0

a noteworthy item — today there were hundreds of cliff swallows (first seen here for months, with a pronounced W component in the species vector of movement.

these numbers must be received as indices, as I was most dependent upon ears. + deriving #'s from noises is not at all straightforward. Note the low.... One banded WR bird Rt Lg.

24 February

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Reached subunit #1 of linear grid at 0745. Temp = 12.5°C. IVL = 65 f.c. Wind = 0; clouds = 0%. En route we saw buffies on tower Llanos, including a flock of ~20 in the vicinity of the tower Llanos and Grid 9. Also 5-10 rhea on the Llanos. One or two of the During linear grid samples, the procedure is as follows: beginning at subunit #1, at the south end of the linear grid, we stop at standard observation points on the bank above the arroyo at a point in the middle of each subunit. Each subunit is 100 m long, with 21 stakes at 5m intervals (20 units). On the opposite side (West) of the Arroyo, are 3 stakes, one each opposite end stake 0, 10 and 20, thus dividing the W side into 2 50 m units. Position of all birds on both sides of the Arroyo

JPMyers
1974

Journal

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

24 ~~January~~ February) Within 5 m of the waters edge ~~are~~ are recorded in terms of sub-unit units (e.g. 0, 7, etc). West side notation is either 0 or 1. Travel between lineal grid subunits is done out of the Arroyo channel, and out of view of any birds in the Arroyo. This does not appear to be an essential precaution for Wrens, but larger shorebirds + other Arroyo residents (e.g. southern screamers, Neotropic cormorant, sheep, etc) are disturbed by the cars approach. After completing a lineal grid run, if another is not to be taken immediately, at subunit 10 I take the car into the Arroyo + drive slowly S along the edge, counting, ~~to~~ all species ~~checking~~ for banded WR, and noting position ~~if~~ if beyond grid (a 100 m stretch between subunit #10 and a fence to the north), on grid subunits (in which case I also record side - E or W), or between sub-units. All banded birds are recorded. The Arroyo Channel banks are a fairly constant width of ~~50~~ 50-75 m. ~~Width~~ Water depth (+ surface area) is more at its lowest point of the year, being less than 0.5 m deep in the center, and usually ~ 10 m across. During early January the water reached a depth of over ~~a~~ 1.0 m, and the width was easily twice what it was now. The Arroyo bottom varies between a clay-mud mixture + fairly pure sand (this was very evident when placing stakes or net poles). Above the water line there is generally sand, although in many places a ~~5~~ 5m band of clay can be found just below the edge of the embankments (which are often 1.5 - 2 m high. Gastropod shells litter the banks, some 5" in length. ~~Although~~ Although the Arroyo enters Mar Chiquita (a shallow saline estuary ~ 20 Km S., we can discern little if any tidal action. Level changes result from wind - especially strong S winds - or rain. ~~During~~ ~~From~~ From mid-morning to mid-afternoon the Arroyo, especially now that other water sources are nearly dried up - is frequented by sheep, cattle + horses. Several sub-units - esp #1, ~~#~~ 2, 3, 9 and 10, are heavily used. #2 receives very heavy use, probably because a small drainage area leads into the Arroyo there, providing a convenient approach. The soil here reflects the cumulative presence of cattle, being a composite of clay, sand, and scrapies. Trodding of cattle ~~also~~ affect the shoreline, especially if the bottom is mud: deep hoofprints remain. This morning - after completing our runs, we turned and made a count of WR along the arroyo. ~~Then, following a late breakfast~~ We then went to the potrero beyond the N end of the lineal grid in order to follow the Arroyo as far

Journal

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Maipu, Prov. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

24 February (cont'd)

upstream as feasible, looking for WR and bands. In order to pass to the next potrero we had to go by the swamps discussed 21 February (see map in Journal). Banded WR Rg Lo was with again there. The number of them seen this morning was incredible. In addition to many groups of 5-10 apparently full sized birds, we found one flock of 43 young (of mixed ages) with 2 adults. Also 7 wood stork in swamp near Rg Lo. Running along the Arroyo, however the first 2 fences N of the linear grid we found 7 WR - not very many for the ~1.5 km of beach. Crossing through the fence in a little thicket with still blooming jacarandas (like the tower) - in it were 2 buffalo. In the Arroyo in this potrero (3 km) we found 53 WR (see sp accent) Other species: 3 Neotropic cormorant; 2 Southern Screamer; 1 Cocoi heron; 5 Southern Lapwing, 9 Black-necked stilt; 9 Charadrius falklandicus; 2 Greater Yellowlegs; 91 Brown-headed gull.

5.

After 3 km in the northernmost potrero we reached a drainage ditch over which the car could not pass. So we followed it eastward a short distance & quickly came to a large swamp with a great deal of open water. Following the edge of this south, we came upon a series of small ~ almost dried black-mud swamps, with small patches of tole, and lots of Solanum. Here I found a flock of 40-50 WR, and 10 or 100 Ch. falklandicus, and one Pectoral! Collected 5 WR (086, 087, 088, 090, 091) and the solitary Pectoral (089) [See sp. accent - wet+pect].

Another flock of ~ca 20 in vicinity - 20-30. The Ch. falklandicus appear to use the hard caked mud lying away from the wet foraging area of the WR, but also foraging on it just up to the edge of the H_2O. There are consistent differences between their foraging areas + those of WR however. Is part of the timing of Ch. falk. migration related to the drying of these black-mud marshes in late summer? After eating lunch in this vicinity - many cliff swallows are returned to the linear grid and at 1300 (temp = 25°, shade 106 = 1500 fc.) began reading grid again. Another sample began at 1445, then again at 1925. Grid totals: (4 runs) - totals given as sp accounts, total numbers for both sides of Arroyo together: White rump 21 (15-32) 85; Charadrius falklandicus 14 (11-16) 57; Greater Yleg 1 (0-2) 4; Black necked stilt 1.5 (1-2) 6; Southern lapwing 11 (5-13) 42; Neotropic cormorant - (0-1) 1; Cocoi heron - (0-1) 1; Speckled teal 0.5 (0-2) 2; Yellow-billed pintail 0.5 (0-2) 2, Brown-headed gull 6 (0-12) 23; Rufous backed negrito 0.5 (0-1) 2; Pseudoleistes virescens 1 (0-4) 4, Correndera pip. - (0-1) 1.

JP Myers
1979

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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Magdariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argenteria

24 February cont'd

Totals accumulated during the survey running back along the Arroyo at 0835, counting all birds seen are: White rump 24 (on grid units), 40 (between), 64 (total); Charadrius falklandicus 14, 32 (46); Greater Yellow legs 1, 2 (3); Black-necked Stilt 2, 1 (3); Southern lapwing 10, 8 (18); Neotropic Cormorant 1, 0 (1); Speckled teal 0, 2 (2); Brown-headed gull 0, 3 (3); Rufous-backed negrito 0, 1 (1); Geositta funicularia 0, 1 (1) Southern Screamer 0, 2 (2). Bands seen in Arroyo: White-rump (see resighting chart and grid data RyLg; RoLy; RpLg; RrLr; RyLyy; RyLyr; RyLor; RyLpy; RyLpp; RyLpr; RyLrp; RyLrg; RyLgy; RyLgr; RoLyy; RoLyp.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Magdariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

@ 2100 we drove to the E end of tower llanos to the site located 22 February where I found a flock of 80 buffies ~~were beginning~~ looked as if it was going to roost. They were there again tonight, too dark to count numbers, but there appeared to be roughly as many. Using a new netting technique (see buffie species accnt) I netted one buff-breasted sandpiper + banded.

25 February

0640 arrived at tower. By 0645 WR rumps were in Arroyo. First buffie heard flying by at 0653. However it remained the only buffie detected until 0722 when I spotted the first buffies foraging in the vicinity: they had walked into Grid 4, and were in (1, 0) of 4 before we could see them. By 0724 3 buffies were on Grid 10. The morning was warm (temp at 0600 = 15°), with no wind, and a moderate, low mist over the llanos, extending vertically less than 10m. 0739 sun just coming above mist. During the morning (until 1000), I took ~~45~~ samples on grid 10 (including 0715-0815 at 2 minute intervals, + all others at 10 minute intervals) and 2 on Grid 4b (0900, 1000). Grid totals:

10: buff-breasted sandpiper 3 (0-9) 130; Rufous-backed negrito – (0-1) 3; Anthus correndera 0.5 (0-2) 18; Anthus torquata – (0-1) 1; Geositta cunicularia – (0-1) 1.

Grid 4b buff-breasted sandpiper 8 (5-11) 16; Rufous backed negrito 4.5 (4-5) 9; Correndera pipit 3 (2-4) 6; Cow 0.5 (0-1) 1. See Buff-breasted sp. accent for extensive description. 2 banded WR in Arroyo bathing (see sp. accent). One Peleoral flying overhead. One Snail Kite flying overhead. Many Cliff swallows.

26 February

Reached tower at 0645. WR were in the Arroyo just after our arrival, and probably were before. No Buffie on grid at 0645. First one detected at 0713. 0710 JVL = Ife

JP Myers
1974

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Tower Llanos Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pucia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

26 February

temp = 16° wind = light NE. Cloudo = 5% 0713 RB Negrito appeared. As before, we did not see the buffies until they were well onto Grid 4 foraging - they appeared magically. First Baffy entered Grid 20 at 0715. 0731 sun just cracking the clear horizon. First Swallows at 0736 - all flying NW 0740 - the birds (buffies) moving in herds again - very similar to yesterday - they sweep across 0745 - again as yesterday there is a lot of flying. ~~the dogpen was aggressive~~ Very little aggression. ~~Stayed~~ (See Buffy sp accent.) Remained on tower until 1000, + King 28 samples during that time period totals: Grid 10 Buff-breasted sandpiper 2.6 (0-8) 73; Rufous-backed Negrito 0.2 (0-1) 5; Correndera pipit 1 (0-4) 28. Grid 46 (8 samples): Buff-breasted 8.9 (3-19) 71; Rufous-backed Negrito 2.8 (0-8)[22]; Correndera pipit 1.9 (0-4) 15.

~~Immediately following the last sample on the tower I began reading the linear grid along the Arroyo~~

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pucia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Immediately following the last sample on the tower I began reading the linear grid along the Arroyo Chico. Totals: White-rump Sandpiper 17, 18 (on E side) 17, 18 (on W side), Charadrius falklandicus 10, 6; Greater Yellow legs 0, 2; Southern Lapwing 0, 2; Brown-headed gull 0, 4; Speckled teal 0, 2. Then, I returned south along the arroyo, counting birds and searching for banded WR. Totals: White rump 20, 42 (on grid N of site 6 between cards); Pectoral Sandpiper 1, 0; Charadrius falklandicus 22, 21; Black-necked stilt 0, 2; Greater Yellow legs 1, 3; Southern lapwing 2, 7; Neotropic Cormorant 2, 1; Southern screamer 1, 0; Speckled teal 0, 6; Brown-headed gull 4, 4; Vanellus 1, 3; Rufous-backed negrito 1, 1; Correndera pipit 0, 6. Beyond the south end of the grid were 4 WR. The total # of White rumps along the linear grid today compares favorably with those seen 2/24: 162 total today, as opposed to 64 on 2/24. However, there has been a decline from 2/20, when 85 were found. And the decline beyond the south end of the grid (where 4 were seen today) is even more striking, down from 22; this had been a fairly constant number. From the fence to the end of the Arroyo property at the Arroyo Chico Bridge there were no WR on this stretch of the Arroyo, ~500 m. However, there was one Golden Plover. See Ch. falk. sp account for list of banded resightings. WR resightings detailed in chart in Grid 10 book.

27 February

I arrived at the tower at 0720. Within 2 minutes I had seen buffies on the grid, so I assume

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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

27 February (cont'd)

that buffies were present at least by the time of my arrival. Temperature at 0630 = 15° SKy = 90% clear except for a low mist rising to ~10m. Slight NE breez. Sunrise ~0731. AT 0735 LVL in sun = 130 ft cds (unknown in shade = 50 fc.) White-rump and Cliff swallows going by. Buffies on grids and on beach in Arroyo, especially in old cow grounds. Sampled until 0900 Grid totals:

#10 (16 samples) Buff-breasted sandpiper 3.3 (0-7) 50; Rufous-backed negrito 0.2 (0-2) 3; Correndera pipit 1.3 (0-3) 21. #4 (3 samples) Buff-breasted Sandpiper 8.3 (0-15) 25; Rufous backed negrito 9 (2-6) 12; Correndera pipit 1.3 (0-3) 4. ~~[illegible]~~

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

After leaving the tower I read one sample from the linear grid, beginning at 0900. Totals: White rump 19, 15 (34) (E side, W side, total); Charadrius falklandicus 7, 9 (16); ~~Hudsonian godwit~~ Pectoral Sipiper 1, 0 (1); Hudsonian Godwit 1, 0 (1); Greater Yleqs 0, 2 (2); Southern Lapwing 2, 4 (6); Rhea 0, 3 (3); Neotropic cormorant 0, 1 (1); Cocoi heron 0, 1 (1); Correndera Pipit 1, 0 (1). This was followed by a run along the linear grid, searching for banded UR and counting all birds. totals: White-rumps 30 (total on grid units), 46 (76) (total between, total); Charadrius falklandicus 14, 26 (40); Hudsonian Godwit 0, 1 (1); Greater Yleqs 1, 2 (3); Black-necked stilt 0, 2 (2); Southern Lapwing 1, 3 (4); Neotropic cormorant 0, 2 (2); Speckled teal 0, 12 (12); Brown headed gull 1@, 1 (2); Trudeau's tern 1, 0 (1); Rufous-backed negrito 0, 2 (2); Correndera pipit 1, 0 (1). ~~[illegible]~~ 12 UR resighted, including RpLg and RgLo, both from the landing at Grid 9! However RpLg has gone from its territory.

28 February

Rained 10 min between 0500 and 0700 this morning. Went to linear grid at 1530. Rain does not appear to have rained Arroyo Seco (which is still in its way down). Grid totals: White rump 8, 52 (60) (E, W, total); Buff-breasted Sipiper 0, 2 (2); Pectoral Sipiper 0, 1 (1); Charadrius falklandicus 6, 3 (9) Greater Yleqs 1, 0 (1); Southern Lapwing 12, 3 (15); Brown-headed Gull 1, 1 (2); Southern Screamer 2, 0 (2). (See UR spp. accent re large number of UR). After running I drove down the Arroyo looking for banded birds. Lighting was poor. I found 11 banded UR between the fence at sub-unit 10 and the corral below the tower. At 1745 I climbed into the tower, watching for movements on the Llanos and from the Arroyo to the Swamp. (See UR and Buffy spp. accent.) 5 golden plovers on Llanos

Journal

Arroyo Clico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivandro by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

28 February (cont'd)

1935 / took weather linear grid reading. temp = 25°, wind strong from N, clouds = 25%, IVL sun = 2000 fc, shade = 400 fc. Totals: White rump 17 (East), 9 (West side) (26 total); Charadrius falklandicus. 13, 3 (16); Southern lapwing 8, 4 (12); Neotropic cormorant 0, 2 (2); Maguari stork 2, 0 (2); Brown-hooded gull 0, 1 (1). Because of light conditions (looking W into sun to read grid) no birds were read.

3 March

reached subunit #1 of linear grid at 1819. En route across tower llanos saw ≈ 50 buffies and 2 golden plovers. Weather: temp 27°; wind mod. NW; clouds = 0; IVL sun = 7000 fc, shade = 500 fc. Arroyo level continuing down, with a new island appearing in subunit 4.

Grid totals: White-rump 12 (E), 21 (W side) (33 total); ~~[illegible]~~; Charadrius falklandicus 8, 5 (13); Black-necked Stilt 0, 1 (1); Southern lapwing 5, 8 (13). Light conditions made it impossible to read several bands, though a total count running back along the grid yielded totals: white rump on grid 43, 80 (123 total); Charadrius falklandicus 18, 29 (47); S. lapwing 17, 17 (34); Black-necked Stilt 3, 1 (4); Southern Sheavover 0, 3 (3); Speckled teal 4, 2 (6); brown-hooded gull 1, 3 (4); Trudeau's tern 0, 5 (5); Rufous-backed negrito 2, 4 (6) Correndera pipit 0, 1 (1). Light conditions. After taking this census, we drove out onto the llanos.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

came onto llanos at @ 2000, searching for buffy roost with the intent of netting. Found several small flocks of buffies, totaling no more than 50 birds, but could not find a concentrated roost. (see sp. accent) Stayed until after dark. One group of 4 located, another solitary buffy. The ≤100 lapwings on the llanos gave us no respite from their warning calls, even after the sun had set. 2 golden plovers, + 2 Thinocorus! the first of the season here (see sp. accent).

4 March

Arrived at tower at 0710. heard first buffy at 0734. h. WR already in Arroyo when I arrived. 0736.5 sun cracked the horizon 0735. temp = 11.5 (up from 10.5 at 0500). 0% cloud cover, but a slight patchy mist. IVL sun = 50 fc = shade. 1 wood stork in Arroyo this morning at 0740 as I arrived the tower several times. Although I was able to see buffies there most of the observation period (till 0830), none appeared on Grid 10, and only during one sample (0830) did one get to Grid 6. One flock 30 WR flying away from Arroyo

Journal

4 March (cont'd)

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, 235 km S. of Tandil by road, Pto de Madariaga, Prcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Grid totals: #10 (4 samples) Buffy 0, Rufous backed Negrito 0.25 (0-1)1; Correndera Pipit 0.25 (0-1)1.

#46 (4 samples) Buffy 1 (0-4)4; Rufous backed Negrito 10 (8-12)40; Correndera Pipit 1.25 (0-5)5.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Pto de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Began reading linear grid at 0834. totals: White-rump 14 (E side), 16 (W side) (30 total); Charadrius falklandicus 8, 4 (12); Black-necked stilt 2, 1 (3); Southern lapwing 1, 8 (9); Brown-headed gull 1, 0 (1); Neotropic cormorant 0, 2 (2); Speckled teal 1, 3 (4); Rufous backed Negrito 0, 1 (1). Then, beginning at 0905 (ending 1000) I ran back along the Arroyo counting + searching for banded birds. Totals: White-rump 43, 43 (86 off) (total); Hudsonian godwit 0, 1 (1); Greater Yellowlegs 1, 7 (8); Charadrius falklandicus 10, 32 (42); Southern lapwing 3, 3 (6) (on grid units); Black-necked stilt 0, 9 (9); Neotropic cormorant 0, 1 (1); Brown-headed gull 3, 9 (12); Speckled teal 1, 23 (24); Shoveler 0, 3 (3). 12 banded WR, 5 banded Ch. falklandicus. (See resighting chart). No noticeable change in Arroyo level

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

From the S. end of the grid I drove up with the throttled area of the llanos, and found 3 Thinocorus immediately. At most 40 buffies. Evening - returned to llanos 1930 and spotted 30 buffies almost immediately after crossing the big drainage ditch (see op. accent). We followed them until they roosted; setting down @ 2010. Sunset at 2025. Moderate NE wind dropping considerably just after sunset. Despite determined effort netted no buffies (almost did get a calf!) Cows were a terrible hindrance. Moon 3/4 full, getting stronger; no clouds. Temp ≈ 13° after sunset. Flock of buffies accumulated to more than 50 individuals but before settling they split up again. No Thinocorus seen this evening, nor any golden plovers.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Pto de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

5 March

reached subunit 1 of linear grid 0735. Sun rose a minute later. Temperature = 13° C, clouds 20%, already there was a slight N wind + the reddish dawn despite evil doings later on in the day.

Grid total: White rump 13 (E), 17 (W) (30 total); Charadrius falklandicus 3, 6 (9); Black necked Stilt 1, 5 (6); Greater Yellowlegs 0, 2 (2); Southern lapwing 0, 3 (3); Speckled teal 1, 0 (1); Geositta cunicularia 1, 0 (1); Rufous backed negrito 1, 1 (2). Immediately upon reaching unit 10 I turned + ran down the Arroyo, correcting birds + spotting nests. Totals: White-rump 17, 71 (88) (on grid both sides) (between) (total); Hudsonian godwit 1, 0 (1); Greater Yellowlegs 2, 1 (3); Charadrius falklandicus 25, 28 (53); Black-necked stilt 1, 1 (2); Southern lapwing 7, 10 (17); Neotropic cormorant 0, 1 (1); Southern Screamer 0, 2 (2)

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, ~35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

5 March (cont'd)

Speckled teal 0,11(11); Anas versicolor 0,2(2); Brown-headed gull 6,2(8); Rufous bordered Hawk 2,5(7) Geositta cunicularia 1,0(1). By the time that this survey was complete (0900) - the line of clouds to the S which had previously threatened had dissapated, leaving clear sky. 14 banded (W R, 5 banded Charadrius falklandicus. Water level in the Arroyo unchanged

Tower Charos
Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

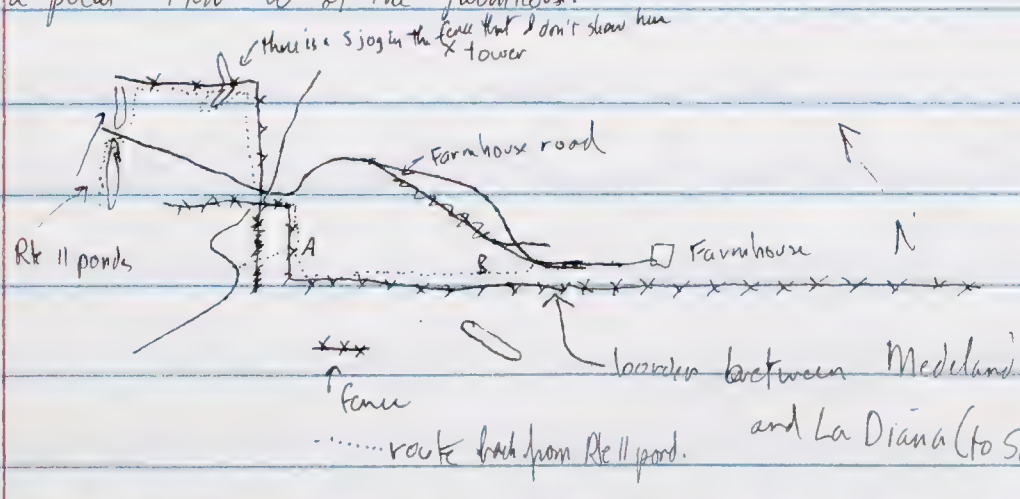
0900 drove onto llanos searching for Thinocorus in North area. Found four, collected two (092,093). Also collected a solitary bretfty (094).

Rte 11 Pond, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

After leaving Arroyo Chico I drove out to Rte 11 pond along Farmhouse Rd. The pond to the north is almost dried, with a 2m band of black mud surrounding less than 2 m of water on both sides. One Lifega feeding there. However, on the South, considerably more water remains, indeed the borders are as yet vegetation covered (as is most of the water). Greater and Lesser Yellow legs present, as well as 6 Pectorals! This is the largest group of Pectorals I have seen since returning from Paraguay.

Farmhouse Rd, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Returned to farmhouse via circuitous route, looking for flocks of buffies and/or seedsnipe. Followed Rte 11 pond W to fence, then this fence E as far as a drying pond, ~2 Km. The road roughly parallels the fence. At the pond, after circling around it, I returned to the fence until it intersected with a N-S fence, which I took S to the road. Crossing the bridge, I then followed the S side fence southward away from the road for ~1.5 Km until it intersects an E-W fence, which I followed E until it was approached by the road at a point ~1 Km W of the farmhouse.



At one point, denoted A on the map, I crossed the fence onto Estancia La Diana and walked to Arroyo Chico. The most striking thing about this expedition was the lack of what I sought. No buffies, no seedsnipe. Nor any Occipitalis. Only Silvaporing (plenty), Sicalis - some large flocks, many, many Anas

JP Myers
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Estancia Medclard, 35 km S. of Ivancho by road, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

5 March (cont'd) ...some Pseudoleistes, cliff + cuR swallows, rufous-backed negrito. In the Arroyo, when I crossed into La Diana, I found a few Charadrius falklandicus, a cormorant, and some Speckled teal. No WR sandpipers. From the fence at Point B it was possible to survey a moderate size pond on La Diana, with a tremendous amount of exposed black mud. The entrance viewing was poor because of heat waves + distance, but through the scope I detected a few WR, some Wegs, BN St. H, an unknown ducks of at least two species (Speckled tea' + Anas versicolor. Screamer. Although I said that I was looking for buffies, after shooting across the vegetation through which I traveled, I am not surprised that there were none. It was too high, too rough. Only in one spot, on the S or W side of the fence at A, was the vegetation close to being appropriate. And here, though the grass looked right, there was no water, brush - the patches of grass were too close together.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medclard, 35 km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

7 March reached linear grid subunit #1 just before sunrise, which occurred at 0740. Temp = 17° at 0530 am. clouds 20% - a dense line of high cumulus to S. which soon dissapated. Wind 0 at dawn. Began reading linear grid 0746. totals White-rump 15,16 (31) [E side → 15, W side → 16, total = 31]; Charadrius falklandicus 5,12(17); Greater Yellowlegs 1,1(2); BN Stilt 1,1(2); Southern lapwing 6,3(9); Neotropic cormorant 0,1(1); Speckled teal 0,5(5); Shoveler 0,3(3); Cocoi heron 0,1(1); Rufous backed Negrito 1,0(1); Correndera pipit 0,1(1). As usual, this early morning run was followed by a return down the Arroyo, counting birds and searching for bands. Totals: White-rump 28,66(94) [ongrids 28, Between 66, total 94]; Charadrius falklandicus 11,37(48); Golden Plover 1,0(1); Greater Yellowlegs 2,2(4); Black-necked Stilt 1,2(3); Southern lapwing 7,7(14); Southern Screamer 2,0(2); Speckled teal 0,43(43); Shoveler 0,3(3), Brown-headed gull 1,0(1); Rufous backed Negrito 1,3(4); Correndera Pipit 1,8(9); Geositta 1,1(2). Several items of interest: first, a high number of Charadrius falklandicus - inflated by a flock encountered today in the interval between grid subunits 6 and 5 - in it were two banded birds, Right green and Left pink. Secondly - a high number of correndera pipits, which heretofore had been, if anything, a very irregular visitor to the Arroyo water line. I should note that as of today I have resighted all but 2 of 11 Ch. falklandicus banded (today I saw 5). And finally, a new WR resighting (in addition to 62 others) - Rr Lp, banded in the Arroyo 15 January. After finishing the band search we returned to subunit #5 to follow a banded WR, RyLOO, that has been there since the day it was banded, 21 February (see WR sp. accnt).

JPMyers
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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medelard, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

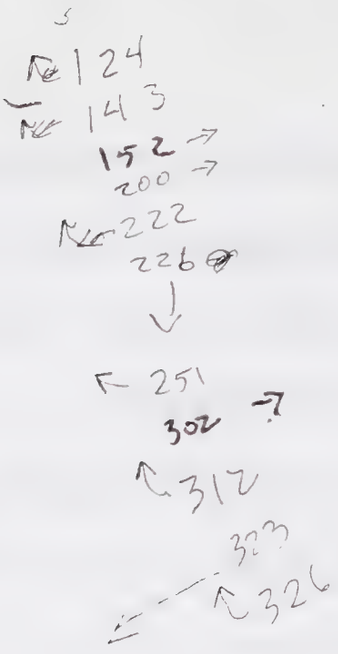
7 March (cont'd) After leaving the Cercian grid we drove out onto Tower Llanos, Ecotein, for Trygnites and Rhinocorus. Found 8 of former (collected one (096)) but no seedsnipe. The ~~s~~ quantity of traffics has decreased drastically, since 5 March.

Rte 11 Pond, Estancia Medelard, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1100 drove to Rte 11 pond in order to collect Pectoral. Found 4 of them, but could not shoot 'em down. (see sp. accent)

Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N' of Mar Chiquita by road, Ptdo de Mar Chiquita, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

8 March reached Canal 7 at 0745 - ~~a~~ approximate time of sunrise - arriving in an unusual dense fog which had much more depth to it than the normal morning mist. The fog had also been present at Medelard when we left, ~ 15 Km to the North. Temperature warm - 18° C. The last few nights have been in great contrast to the chill of last ~~f~~ week. Upon reaching the canal we drove E along the 1 Km dirt road which follows to the mouth of Canal 7 into Mar Chiquita. This was a place that we had camped in October en route south, and again in November on the return trip. The vegetation appeared largely unchanged, except for the submergence of a few short grass areas, beneath this ~~t~~ thistle ~~t~~ other taller plants. The place has been much frequented by campers, it would appear - there are 3 there today (one with a air-propeller driven boat a la Everglades), and the remains of others (sans corpus) litter the area. ~~Although~~ We stopped at the end of the road there, while preparing my collecting equipment I detected Greater Yellegs, + a few WR flying ~~solitarily~~ solitarily overhead. However, I was not impressed by their great quantity at this point. Following the Canal, I proceeded 200 m to the shallow mouth at Mar Chiquita. Coming through a patch of tule along the shore, I beheld the largest flock of W Rumps that I have seen for several months. (counting to the edge of visibility - reduced to less than 100 m by fog, I detected just over 300 WR. And their density gave no hint of tapering off beyond the limits of my vision). Oh joy. Oh bliss. Oh rapture. Walking ~~up shore~~ along the shore to the South, ~ 100 m, yielded at least 200 more. By this time, however, it was apparent that the birds were moving in response to my movements. I then went due E into the laguna (which - even shallower than the last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Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 km W. of Mar Chiquita by road, Ptdoc Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

8 March (cont'd)

visibility no deeper than 3 inches anywhere I went (albeit no greater than 100 m from shore) ~~appeared~~ from the WR flock continued out for some distance, but I desisted from counting because flocks were always moving. After this became apparent, ~~I stopped~~ my attention shifted to collecting: 10 WR (097-105, 108) and 2 Stilt Sandpiper (106, 107). After shooting I repaired to the car. Although the fog impaired vision, I did get some estimate as to the numbers of several species present: White-rump 500, Stilt Sandpiper - 30 definite, possibly as many as 100; Lesser Yellowlegs - 30, Greater Yellowlegs fewer; Black-bellied plover 2; Hudsonian Godwit 20 at least; Black Skimmers - 500+. Brown headed gulls and Trudeau's tern were also present. 1 Maguari Stork. I mentioned that the water was lower than visit. Previously almost the entire mouth had been submerged. This time, however, there was a very slightly raised island, 30m × 50m, blocking part of the mouth. The water in which the WR were foraging remained under 1.5", for the large part. Beyond it was a large mat of thick stringy algae. (See WR + Stilt Spiper spp. accnt)

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Prdo de Magdalena, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 March

Arrived in Arroyo Chico as sun rose above horizon - 0745. At causeway in Arroyo below tower we found 2 small flocks of WR - 25 birds in total, plus a partially molted Hudsonian Godwit, and a Charadrius falklandicus. Temperature pre-dawn this morning (0600) was 17°C. but by 0715 had dropped to 16°. No wind had picked up before we arrived in Arroyo. Diverse cloud cover - very high clouds covering 60%. Lower, fog like (but off ground) with ~30%. Fluffies in thistle patch S. of tower. At 0800 we commenced reading the linear grid. Sun IVL = 200 fc. The Arroyo is up slightly. Readily apparent by looking at the island in subunit 4. Today it has largely disappeared. Picked up one large flock while reading grid subunit 6 - 13 birds just flown in. Grid totals: White-rump: E 20, W 9 (29 total). Charadrius falklandicus 7,2(9); Black Necked Stilt 0,3(3); Southern Lapwing 4,5(9); Neotropic Cormorant 0,1(1); Maguari Stork 1,0(1); Speckled teal 0,2(2); Brown headed gull 0,1(1); Rufous-backed Negrito 2,0(2). Then, running down the Arroyo, looking for banded birds: totals White-rump ongrid 24, between 115 (139 total); Charadrius falklandicus 0,4c(4c); Hudsonian Godwit 0,1(1); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1); Black Necked Stilt 3,1(4); Southern Lapwing 6,13(19)

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11 March (cont'd)

Neotropic cormorant 1,2(3); Southern Screamer 0,2(2); Speckled teal 0,11(11); Southern Shoveler 0,4(4); Anas sibilatrix 0,5(5), Brown-headed Gull 9,3(12); Black Skimmer 1,0(1); Rufous-backed Negrito 1,3(4). Both the white-rump and the Ch. falklandicus totals are up considerably. Within the WR total are the flock also picked up in the grid run (subunit 6), and another flock from between 5 and 4. This latter flock had Rplr within it, + therefore had moved up from below the grid (S of) since I began reading at 0800. (See WR sp account)

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Went up onto llanos at 1000, covering area examined 7 March. Saw 13 buffies, all but one near the area where they had been 7 March. One at head of small drainage ditch going into Arroyo at linear grid subunit 3. Then 1100 3 more appeared there, 2 of which are collected (109, 110). No Rhinocorus. Many WRump and Cliff Swallows in air (latter approaching 50% of flock). Many Rufous-backed Negritos, and Correndera pipits foraging in short grass of llanos. The pipit density has risen considerably in last few weeks. Saw a Cinereous Harrier chasing a Negrito for ~ 10 sec. Unsuccessful.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

12 March

0805 sunrise 0745 approx. reached curve in Arroyo below tower - 18 WR present including Rplr. Fence preening, the rest feeding. The temperature this morning at 0600 was 14°, by 0700 it had dropped to 13.5. No fog or mist by camp, but in patches over the llanos and pantanos a low mist prevailed. None in Arroyo. Cloud heavy along the eastern horizon. No wind. Began reading linear grid at 0808 with sun IVL = 700fc. Arroyo level similar to yesterday. Grid totals: White rump 22, 11 (33) total (E → W), Charadrius falklandicus 7,8(15); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1); Southern lapwing 1,4(5); Southern screamer 0,2(2); Speckled teal 2,0(2); Cocoi heron 0,1(1); Geositta cunicularia 1,0(1); Rufous backed negrito 1,2(3); Correndera pipit 1,0(1). Running down Arroyo totals: White rump on grid 32, 92 between (124) total; Charadrius falklandicus 16, 41(57); Hudsonian godwit 1,4(5); Greater Yellowlegs 1,1(2); Black-necked Stilt 0,1(1); Southern lapwing 7,26(33); Neotropic cormorant 0,5(5); Southern Screamer 0,2(2); Speckled teal 0,13(13); Southern Shoveler 0,1(1); Cocoi heron 0,1(1); Brown-headed gull 0,5(5); Rufous backed Negrito 6,2(8); Geositta cunicularia 0,1(1); Pseudoleistes virescens 1,0(1); Correndera pipit 1,3(4). As yesterday, White-rump and

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

12 March (cont'd)

Charadrius falklandicus numbers were above data from recent past. The large drainage ditch that flows into the Arroyo between 8 and 7 has been augmenting these totals, particularly in the last day or two when I've found numbers of birds resting up amidst the cowpies in a broad flat sandy area - the alluvial plain of the drainage ditch. Today this stretch was also "responsible" for increased #'s of Hudsonian godwits - one flock of 4. White-rump RpLr was, as yesterday, found twice. First in the early morning below subunit 1 with a flock, + then ~ 0930 between subunits 6 and 5, suggesting that its flock is again inflating numbers. 15 banded White rumps today. After finishing the banded bird survey I returned to seek RyLop on subunit 7, choosing this bird from others because of its constancy. Took following data from 1032 - 1132 (see sp account + following data). The bird is territorial. In returning to subunit 7, I was struck by the differences in distribution between then + less than 0.5 hr back - there were many areas bare any WR, + several small areas with groups of resting birds (see sp account). 10mm Rain this afternoon.

13 March

On Arroyo 0800, began reading linear grid 0813. Temperature 12°C, with no wind, and not only a heavy low fog but high clouds as well. Yesterday afternoon's rain has effected the Arroyo water level only slightly. Grid totals White-rump E → 11, 20 (31) W; Charadrius falklandicus 9,9(18); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1); Black-necked Stilt 1,1(2); Southern Lapwing 0,6(6); Neotropic cormorant 1,2(3); Shoveler 0,5(5); Speckled teal 3,6(9); Anas versicolor 0,1(1); Maguari Stork 0,1(1); Brown-hooded gull 1,3(4); Rufous-backed Negrito 2,2(4). Although the rain did not raise the water level very much, it did turn our usual route back along the Arroyo shore to mud, making running down, i.e. a total count, impossible. Therefore I went to linear grid subunit 5 in order to follow RyLoo White rump again (1010-1105; see WR sp. account, linear grid following data book p. 42). During this period a SANDERLING!! appeared at 4u subunit. It was still in basic plumage & no sign of molt. Associated w/ Ch. falk and White rumps.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

After leaving RyLoo we drove from the Arroyo and out onto Tower Llanos, built. six weeks ago. Use was for cattle and rhinoceros. None of the former, 5 secretaries feeding in the same place as previous days.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Ivanchuk by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia Buenos Aires, Argentina

13 March (contd) 1220 returned to linear grid subunit 1 for sample. Grid totals: White rump 11,10(21); Charadrius falklandicus 5,9(14); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1); Southern lapwing 0,5(5); Neotropic Cormorant 0,1(1); Speckled teal 0,5(5); Brown-hooded gull 1,2(3); Correndera pipit 0,1(1). As can be readily seen, shorebird numbers on the grid declined from this morning. This result from the birds congregating & preening, bathing, and resting (which are traditional 1st light activities since all the birds, I'd bet). Today by 1300 a flock had congregated between 6 and 5, roosting behind sewage pits (the downwind most). Present were White rumps, Charadrius falklandicus, and B.N. Sticks. The tightness of these groups appears to vary. I have the impression that in late afternoon White rumps aggregate much closer. Between 6 and 7, and again between 2 and 3, there were other small groups of resting shorebirds. The 6-7 included a Sanderling (certainly the one spotted earlier) & many. That group was also R.v.L.y, a bird not seen since only 2/25/74.

Rte 11 Pond, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1600 went to Rte 11 pond, collecting one out of the 5 Pectorals seen. Water level in the pond appeared to be up slightly. The Pectorals observed were all foraging solitarily.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Then came to Arroyo Chico - birds all very spooky - extremely so. Between the curve before the tower road subunit 4 we found several groups of LWR, mostly between 4 & 5. Elsewhere they were very few. Those that we did see were predominately resting. Spent some time watching LWR feed, trying to determine what it was they were eating. See LWR sp. accnt.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Spotted 9 bufflies flying from Arroyo onto Llanos, but could not find them again when we followed. However, we did find 7 rhinoceros in an opening in the thistle where they have been in the past. Collected 1 (112).

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

14 March At subunit #1 of the linear grid at 0815. Spectacular sunrise, with high thunderheads foreboding to the west, struck pink by the dawn. Temperature at 0600 = 15°. Wind at 0800 = 0, clouds 20%. No fog. Grid totals: White rump 9,22(31); Charadrius falklandicus 8,6(14); Black-necked Stilt 0,2(2); Southern lapwing 1,10(11);

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

14 March (cont'd) Neotropic cormorant 0,1(1); Speckled teal 0,9(9); Cocoi heron 1,1(2); B.h. gull 0,4(4); Correndera pipit 2,0(2); Rufous-backed negrito 1,3(4). After proceeding down Arroyo searching for banded birds, we were set upon by a series of extraordinary clouds which came racing out of the south accompanied by wind and rain. The clouds were low, not extensive in width, but stretching from horizon to horizon in a dark grey strip. There were 5 of them in succession, the lot passing over in less than 20 minutes. Their swift approach, strange appearance, and violence, were remarkable. Because of the rain we were forced to abandon ~ run down the Arroyo (banks become mud). 6 banded birds (WR) located, however (see resighting charts). Rather than retreat to the farmhouse we parked the car above the bank by subunit 6 in order to observe the WR flock present there (see WR spp account). After determining that only one territorial WR used this subunit (controlling the northern part of 0 w), and that non-territorial birds foraged over the rest, we left, driving to subunit 4. There, after watching several WR feed, I collected one that was "filter-feeding" (see spp account), also picking up some of the substrate upon which it was working. On subunit #1 I repeated the collection, only this time taking a "search/peck" feeder, along with its substrate. With these goodies we returned to camp.

15 March Began running linear grid 0800. weather ominous: completely overcast (heavy) with a slight S wind already detectable. Temperature at 0600 = 12.5°. Grid totals: White-rump 8,17 (25) [E, W, total]; Charadrius falklandicus 10,10(20); Black-Bellied Plover 0,1(1); Greater Yellowlegs 0,2(2); Black-necked Stilt 1,0(1); Southern lapwing 1,0(1); Southern screamer 1,0(1); Cocoi heron 1,0(1); Speckled teal 6,1(7); R.B. Negrito 0,3(3); Brown hooded gull 0,1(1); Maguari Stork 0,1(1). Then, turning about at 10, we ran down the Arroyo seeking out banded WR. totals: White-rump 23,54 (77) [ongrids, between, total]; Charadrius falklandicus 20,27(47); Hudsonian godwit 1,4(5); Greater Yellowlegs 1,2(3); Black-necked Stilt 2,3(5); Southern lapwing 6,5(11); Southern Screamer 0,2(2); Neotropic cormorant 0,1(1); Speckled teal 4,6(10); Brown-hooded gull 0,3(3); Gallinago paraguaiae 1,0(1); Rufous-backed Negrito 0,5(5). The change in white-rump sandpiper numbers since yesterday [for the

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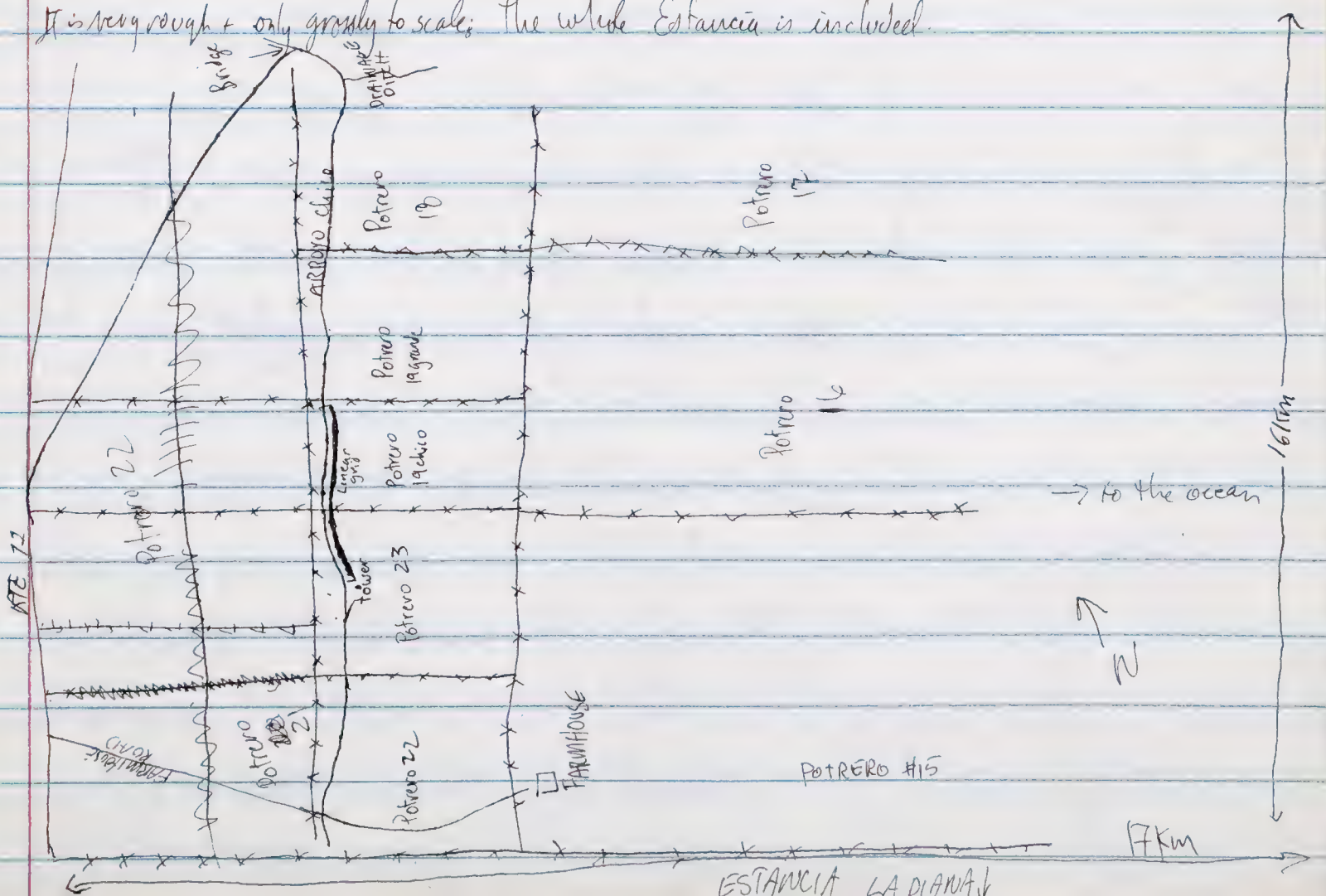
15 March (cont'd)

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

grid sample) and since 12 March (the last successful "running down") ~~was~~ is striking, especially in the latter case. ~~12~~ 12 Banded Welcka were spotted, as opposed to 15 on 3/12, but this variation is normal - i.e. there does not appear to have been a concerted departure of Banded Welcka. By the time I had finished surveying the grid, the weather had made it apparent that there would be no rain, but the cloud cover continued. A ~~reasonably strong~~ moderate wind picked up from the south. ~~[illegible]~~ Because of the drop in WR numbers, and because I had seen small groups of WR flying to the N of the fence above subunit 10, I walked with spotting scope N along the Arroyo E bank as far as the ~~road~~ bridge of Rte 11 over Arroyo Chico. ~~This stretch~~ I had last surveyed this stretch of Arroyo 29 February, finding only a few birds at ~~the~~ its well north of the end of the linear grid. Today, however, there were some important differences - mainly that a group of ~40 WR "spilled over" from the linear grid area into the next potrero, including banded birds ~~[illegible]~~. Charadrius falklandicus, Greater Yellowlegs, Black necked Stilt, and Southern Lapwing were also present, although, as with WR, the ~~latter~~ numbers were lower than in the linear grid area, and most of the birds were in the 1st Ok kilometer. One stretch of Arroyo beyond provided additional shorebirds - that by the drainage ditch which had stopped over progress last trip. I included here yet another map, this time with the numbers of the potreros (land within a fence(?)) as assigned by the residents of the ranch. It is very rough + only grossly to scale; the whole Estancia is included.



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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

15 March (cont'd)

After having made the maps, I must qualify it more - it serves only in a ranking system. But it does have local notation. So, I walked along the Arroyo from the S end of Potrero 19 to the Rte 11 Bride, a distance (one way) of no more than 5 Km. Besides the shorebirds already noted, I found 1 small flock of Thinocorus in the brush on the raised bank of the Arroyo. Other than Shorebirds, the dominant fowl were ducks. 100+ YB Speckled teal, at least 50 YB Pintail, some Anas versicolor, and some Shoveler. Out of the Arroyo were rhea, southern screamer, burrowing owls, cinereous + long-winged harrier, Rufous-backed negrito, Correndera pipit, Cliff + WK swallow. Of course Milvago and Polyborus.

1 Km E of Farmhouse by road, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Stopped Myers en route to camp when I spotted a flock of WR foraging by the road in a swamp just to the W of the road. 20 WR, including Ry Lg. 9 Hudsonian godwits, 5 Lesser Yellegs. This bird brings todays total of banded WR to 17!!

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 March

Temp = 8° at 0800. Began reading linear grid 0847. Wind had already risen from S (strong), clouds = 0. White rumps down today, but not reflected entirely by totals: White rumps E → 7, 29 (36); Charadrius falklandicus 6, 12 (18); Hudsonian godwit 2, 5 (7); Greater Yellowlegs 2, 0 (2); Black necked Stilt 1, 4 (5); Southern lapwing 0, 5 (5); Speckled teal 2, 14 (16); Shoveler 0, 4 (4); Brown-headed gull 0, 3 (3); Correndera pipit 1, 0 (1). Although the on-the-grid total is high, it is almost entirely due to having picked up RyLr's flock on subunit 9, adding 18 birds to the 18 on transect 2 between transects. 'Running' totals also reflect the WR situation: White-rumps 28, 49 (77); Charadrius falklandicus 23, 27 (50); Hudsonian godwit 6, 1 (7); Greater Yellowlegs 2, 0 (2); Black necked stilt 1, 3 (4); Southern lapwing 0, 2 (2); Neotropic cormorant 0, 10 (10); Speckled teal 1, 24 (25); Shoveler 0, 4 (4); Cocoi heron 0, 1 (1); White faced ibis 0, 1 (1); Southern screamer 0, 2 (2); Brown-hooded gull 7, 6 (13); Rufous-backed Negrito 1, 3 (4); Correndera pipit 1, 2 (3). Only 7 banded WR found this morning. At least one territorial bird was gone (RyLop). As in the past 2 days, all Arroyo birds were spooky - taking off at the call of a tero. Was my collecting in the linear grid unwise? Or are the WR's getting smart.

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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

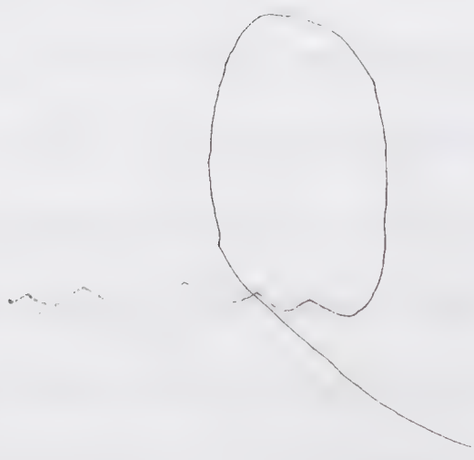
18 March (cont'd) ~~[illegible]~~ After completing the linear grid surveys we drove out onto Tower Llanos. First, we went to the swamp at the E end, and I tromped within it for ~1.5 hr. At least 100 WR present, as well as a small flock of 6Y/legs, ~20 LY/L at most, a few BN Stilt, and perhaps as many as 30 (or more) Nycticorax seen! The swamp has dried considerably in the last 2 weeks, with several areas that had over 1" of water then, now passable by foot with only a shallow footprint left in the mud. One large body of water remains and I suspect that its 1' depth will hold out for several more weeks. Coscoroba swans, roseate spoonbill, puna teal, etc. No grebes. After leaving the swamp we went over the Llanos looking for Tryngites and Thinocorus, finding 19 and 25, respectively, the latter is the largest group of roadsiding that we've seen here to date. Collected one buffy (115).

Rte 11 Pond, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

20 March Passed by Rte 11 Pond at 0945 en route to Tower Llanos from a morning off the Estancia getting a tire patched. Dawn was foggy, 14° C, with a solid bank of clouds along the eastern horizon. By 0800 a mod N wind was up. At 0945 cloud cover had reached 50%, but it was of the benign puffy small cumulus type. Anyway, there was a small flock of Pectorals (7 total) on the pond, foraging near the road on the S. side.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1045 began reading linear grid at subunit 1. Temp = 22°, clouds 30%, wind moderate out of the North. Within the last 3 days the Arroyo has become drier, water level falling ~1", so that now it is in places less than 5 m wide. In several specific locations the change is quite dramatic, and especially so for the WR, as imagine, because they are shallow flats barely covered before. Now they are dry, or almost so. Subunit 4 and subunit 10 are particularly affected by this most recent drop in water level. White rump numbers are down accordingly (or more so) Totals: White-rumps ♂ 3, 9 1/4);



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Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

20 March (cont'd)

Charadrius falklandicus 2,11(13); Hudsonian Godwit 0,14(14); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1); Neotropic cormorant 0,1(1); Southern lapwing 0,1(1); Speckled teal 2,0(2); Brown-hooded gull 0,1(1); Correndera pipit 2,0(0). After completing the sample we returned down the grid, searching for banded birds. Totals: White-rump 13,29(37); Charadrius falklandicus 15,29(44); Greater Yellowlegs 0,3(3); Southern lapwing 0,3(3); Neotropic Cormorant 1,7(8); Speckled teal 0,13(13); Southern Screamer 2,1(3); Brown-hooded gull 0,2(2) 2,4(6); Wrenitta 1,0(1); Correndera Pipit 0,3(3). We found 6 Banded WR, 3 banded falklandicus. The first total (i.e. WR) is appalling, as is the total # of WR seen - 37, the lowest yet. At the same time, it is very interesting because all but 2 of the WR found are known, to be territorial, and those two are flocking birds which I see only irregularly. Then, the small flock(s) which such regulars as Neotropic cormorant, are elsewhere. What remains to be seen.

Tower Ranch, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina.

1215 - flock of 20 buffies in Llanos by S. fence. Also found a few Thinocorus, but I did not search extensively for them.

Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

I am writing this with a more general locality heading because the expedition involved several areas on the Estancia. At @ 1430 I set out from the farmhouse, stepping first 1 km E along Farmhouse Rd in order to investigate the swamp which runs from there North. 15 March I found a banded WR there. Today there were none, only a solitary Lesser Yellowlegs. Water had receded at least 5', reducing the remaining surface water to less than 10' x 90', bordered by a wide strip of caked mud. Signs of WR foraging, eg footprints, were not over by abundant. From here I continued out to Tower Ranch via the fallow corn field, in which, for the first time there, I found Thinocorus, a flock of ~15. From here I continued to Tower Ranch Swamp, only to be dismayed by the paucity of shorebirds - there were 14 Hudsonian Godwits, but 17 white-rumps total (no banded). Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yllegs were also reduced (~15 each.) A few Nycticryphes spooked in unison from one area near the S end of the open water. The main body of water is now all accessible to foraging birds with

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Estancia Medelond, 35 Km S. of Tuancho by road, Pdo de Machariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

20 March cont'd

and both Yellowlegs. White-rumps can stand at least as far as 15m out from the shore along much of the far lagoon. Yet despite all this habitat, there were so few birds. After exploring the marsh for ~0.5 hours, I returned to the car, and followed the swamp N to where it intersects a fence (~300 m). For the first time this year I was thankful to go East, as a patch of swamp has by now caked over completely. This put me in an area where I hadn't been since horse-back riding w/ Araceli Ulrici, 13 February. I found 2 Buffies (collected one, 116) and 7 Thinocorus. Lapwings also present. This stretch of Llanos presents a scragglier appearance than Tower Llanos proper - the grass is lower + has more open space between it. The Buffies + Thinocorus were quite close to each other, but they moved separately in flight, even after I shot the Buffie. After searching for more of either species, unsuccessfully, I turned North as I passed through the gate N of the Tower Llanos (Llanos Grande: see Map: p29 Journal); tower Llanos, swampy, is called the Landing swamp in this map). Continuing N, I investigated the series of swamps indicated on that map, and also the large lagoon. Saw a total of 12 UR, all in flight, headed (consciously) North. Also with them were several Hudsonian Godwit. Much of this area is drying up, and a lot of exposed, caked black mud can be found. However, apparently suitable mud still remains, much of it without any sign of UR foraging. The large lagoon had over 50 black-necked swan, a large flock of rosy-billed pochard, shovelers, yellow-billed pintail, spotted teal. Upon reaching the next gate, I passed through and followed the fence to Arroyo Chico, reaching the Arroyo just above the Linear Grid Subunit 1C. I followed the Arroyo North to the bridge at Route 11, ~5 Km, where I had gone on foot 15 March. The number of UR along here has increased, and instead of being predominately in a few flocks, some of the birds are much more dispersed. Tight flocks remain, first near the S end of this stretch of the Arroyo, i.e. passed through the N end of the linear grid, there are considerable #'s of UR behaving territorially, and some that if not territorial, are certainly spaced out. ~40 UR were in here, perhaps as many as 60. Two birds, Ry Lro and Ry Lgr were within 20 m of one another in a spit of water off the Arroyo ~500 m N of the linear grid. The latter was flushed, the former may have been. Further up the Arroyo, however, the predominant mode of dispersion appeared to be a tight-flock. There were exceptions, certainly. In fact a significant %

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Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

20 March, contd

were spp separated along the Arroyo, as far as the next fence. But here and beyond 2 large flocks of 22 and ~25 WR foraged, thus comprising the majority of birds seen all; between the N end of the linear grid and the Rte 11 Bridge, there were ~ 100 WR. I was very interested to note that individuals within the 2 tight flocks appeared to have worked considerably less than the birds along the linear grid. I took a series of 35mm pictures that should turn out well. At Rte 11 Bridge I turned around, forded the Arroyo in the Citroen in a place of sandy bottom, + came back down the Arroyo. To the W, in addition, I looked for buffies for suitable habitat, of which I found none. Upon reaching the linear grid (after a series of detours imposed by poorly distributed gates) I ran down, searching for stranded birds. See WR sp. accent

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

21 March

Began reading linear grid 0818 temp = 15°. Cloud cover was 20%, scattered composed almost entirely of a solid bank to the NE along the horizon. No wind during the grid reading, though it came up by mid-morning, strong out of the North. Grid totals: White-rump E→ 10, 4(14) (W) ↙ total; Charadrius falklandicus 6,9(15); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1); Black-necked Stilt 0,0(1); Southern Lapwing 0,1(1); Neotropic Cormorant 0,7(7); Speckled teal 0,7(7); Brown hooded gull 3,0(3); Rufous-backed Negrito 1,0(1). [illegible] this [illegible] yesterday. Running down the Arroyo: totals: White-rump on sabulosus → 11, 38(49) ← between; Charadrius falklandicus 14,33(47); Hudsonian godwit 1,0(1); Greater Yellowlegs 0,3(3); Southern lapwing 1,6(7); Neotropic Cormorant 0,1(1); Southern Screamer 0,2(2); Speckled teal 4,5(9); Shoveler 0,3(3); Yellow-billed Pintail 2,1(3); Cocoi Heron 0,1(1); Brown Hooded gull 3,3(6); Rufous-backed Negrito 1,4(5); Correndera Pipit 1,11(12). The White-rump situation does not appear to have changed. 8 banded WR found, all but 2 were territorial. Observations made both during the grid sample and running down suggested a very large proportion of territorial birds.

Rte 11 Pond, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1015 came to Rte 11 Pond in order to collect a Pectoral, and to watch the weather while deciding whether or not to go to Canal 7 this afternoon. Sat by pond for ~45 minutes, in sight of 4 territorial Pects. Wind picked up slightly from the North, and water in the pond was distinctly obviously being pushed down toward the South, a steady current of fresh wind blasting past me and the Pectorals. The clouds, after

Journal

Pt 7 Pond, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

21 March (cont'd)

threatening for several hours (and indeed raining patchily beyond the farmhouse toward the coast) yielded to the wind and moved off. After southern lapwings scared off all but 2 of the Pectorals, I collected one (117), surveyed the rest of the pond, and returned to Arroyo Chico. On the rest of the pond were 7 more Pectorals, a few lesser yellowlegs, southern lapwing, a small flock of Speckled teal, 11 Wood storks, numerous rufous-backed negrito (foraging on the emergent vegetation) and a new arrival (it would appear) to this habitat, a Cinclodes spp, perhaps fuscus (but I will collect). The appearance has been quite dramatic - it is now here en masse whereas before there were none.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1230 began yet another linear grid reading. Clouds were 90%, with a strong N. wind. Temp = 22°. Cowbird sharp dominated the grid readings, as they usually do during mid-day samples. Several subunits suffer severely from these plagues, particularly 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10. Grid totals WR 3,5(8); Charadrius falklandicus 6,5(11); Hudsonian godwit 1,0(1); Bonaker Yellow legs 0,1(1); Neotropic Cormorant 1,0(1); Speckled teal 5,4(9); Shoveler 0,3(3); Brown-hooded gull 0,1(1); Rufous-backed negrito 1,0(1); Correndera pipit 0,2(2). Ooof! what a miserable quantity of WR, surpassed even by Speckled teal. However this was to have been expected, given the paucity of birds present in the dawn reading, and the fact that usually flocking birds coalesce during mid-day hours, thus reducing even further the totals.

see WR sp. accnt.

Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N of Mar Chiquita by road, Ptdo de Mar Chiquita, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1730 arrived at Canal 7. I was prevented from an extensive exploration because of 2nd degree burns on my left foot (which have hampered my movements for 4 days now) but I was able to skirt along the wedge of the lagoon for ~ 750 meters to N from the mouth of the canal. What a sight! My last visit here, 8 March, was tempered by a thick fog which prevented any overview. Today the sky was only 20% overcast, with a very strong N wind blowing down the length of Laguna Mar Chiquita. The wind appeared to have pushed considerable water to the South, making this area much shallower - indeed, where the several hundred WR had been foraging 8 March there were now fed by

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Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N of Mar Chiquita by road, Ptdo de Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

21 March cont'd

Directly out from the mouth, ~200 m, were scattered WR on a shallow flat. this flat drop'd abruptly into what appeared to be deeper water (~1½ m) with numerous ~~mounds~~ mounds - like flamingo nests (except that they were ~1½ - the mounds were ~2' in diameter, projecting about 1' out of the water) Great egrets, Cormorants, were out beyond, and 2 flocks of ~30 total Roseate spoonbills foraged along the edge, as well as many hundreds of the Hudsonian Godwits. To the North, where the water got progressively shallower, there were broad shallow flats, many hundred yards wide and over 1 km long. The mud changed from a sandy firm bare to a bottom which, the longer one stayed in one place, the more it enveloped one. Dark, with a weak bottle smell. Before the mud changed there ~~was~~ was a small sandbar, perhaps 75 × 100 m. On it were resting 300-400+ Black skimmers. And beyond, in the broad mud flat, were thousands of WR. I estimate that there were over 5000 WR, several hundred Wilsonia, and little else in the way of shorebirds (see WR sp accounts). The WR were polarized, most of them foraging into the wind. I saw no small peeps which were at all reminiscent of any other species besides the Wilsonia), the conditions were not ideal for a thorough search. In addition to these, there were Greater + Lesser Yelps, Spectled teal, Shovelers, Yellow-billed pintail, Coscoroba Swan, Black-necked Stilt (100's), both brown-hooded and kelp gulls, 2+ species of tern, a few Flamingos, Southern lapwing, Southern screamer, a few Maguari Stork.

Arroyo Clirco, Estancia Medland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

22 March

1645 reached subunit 1 of the linear grid. Cloud cover extensive, 60% Temp 22°C (Wind was strong out of the NE. Immediately I began sampling the grid. Totals: White-rump 5,7(12); Charadrius falklandicus ~~on~~ 8,7(15); Greater Yellowlegs 1,0(1); Black-Necked Stilt 0,2(2); Southern lapwing 3,2(5); Speckled teal 4,5(9); Brown-hooded gull 8,0(8); L. pipit 1,0(1). As during the last sample, the # of WR were low and comprised largely by territorial birds. By 1600 was in its territory in subunit 5. By this time in the afternoon the number of Limicolae using the Arroyo had dropped considerably from the herds usually present during mid-day hours. After completing the sample, instead of running back town searching for banded birds (prevented by poor light) we continued on up the Arroyo ~~and~~ into Potrero 19 grande, after making a forced 1 km Eastward detour in order to circle

10, 20, 30, 40

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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

22 March (cont'd)

the requisite gate. We followed the Arroyo to a point at which fording in car was possible, and then continued back. However, en route, making a detour up out of the course of the stream, we briefly entered a field similar in vegetation structure to Tower Llanos. Short grass, perhaps thicker than that on the llanos but no taller. It is bordered on one side by the banks of the stream [here, as elsewhere, 3-4' elevated above the land outside the Arroyos, the elevated area covered with thick, high (1'-1.5') spiny dry vegetation including thistle, with occasional viscacha holes with either the viscacha or burrowing owls in residence] and on another by what appears to be an old stream-side elevation, suggesting that the stream has since changed course (tho' what would have been the channel is now filled in). To the South the field continues for several hundred meters, but appears to shift abruptly in that direction into a grass of taller dimensions. In the field in one area nearer the Arroyo are a series of lower areas replete with Solanum. To the east, beyond the first formation which I suggested was an old bank of the Arroyo, the field begins anew, continuing for ~150 m. Then branch sedge picks up, and a dried marsh carries on from there. It appeared to be extensive, and in fact, is part of the marsh where I collected 24 February. Anyway, on this field we found the usual Lessonia and Anthus correndera, although less dense here than on Tower Llanos, Vanellus (several groups totaling over 20) and flocks of Thinocorus rumicivorus, of which I collected 2 (118, 119). We counted 60 Thinocorus, but there were certainly more. I was struck by the fact that the commonest birds of Tower Llanos now, Lessonia and Anthus are much less evident here, and that the grass is so much thicker (i.e. horizontal density greater) whereas height of the vegetation is not that different. This field is in Potrero 18, beginning just beyond the fence separating it from 19 grande. Leaving here, we drove to the above mentioned fording point, 7.5 m E of the N bridge, and returned down the Arroyo, counting WR + searching for banded birds. By this time it was past 1100. We found 2 bands above the linear grid, RgLgr and RgLro. even though the former was in the same position where I found it 20 March. RgLro was in the vicinity of its old territory. There were a total of 94 WR along the entire stretch between the bridge and the fence dividing Potreros 19 chico and 23. See WR spp and Thinocorus spp data).

23 March

dawn windless, temp ~16°. A low dense line of clouds was on the ENE horizon, extending perhaps 5° N above the horizon. This has been a typical dawn cloud formation for several previous days

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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

23 March (cont'd) and I suspect that it is due to coastal fog, as it sometimes penetrates inland to here. By 0805 a slight NE wind was up. At that time I began reading the linear grid. Totals: White-rump 4,4(8); Charadrius falklandicus 6,11(17); Hudsonian godwit 1,0(1); Greater Yellowlegs 1,2(3); Neotropic cormorant 1,6(7); Speckled teal 10,3(13); Brown hooded gull 0,2(2); Rufous backed Negrito 0,3(3). After sampling the grid I continued North into Potrero 19 grande to where Ry Lgr has been, remaining for 1.5 hrs while observing W. rumps (see sp account). Before leaving I collected 2 flocking WR (120, 121). While returning I passed through the Tower Llanos, finding (after considerable searching) one flock of ~20 buffies, and I collected 3 (122, 123, 124).

24 March Sun on the horizon at 0800 when I began reading the linear grid. Temp = 18°, clouds 70% - a very rosy dawn in color, with high streaks carrying the color over the fog bank along the N horizon. (Wind) Slight from N even at this early hour. Grid totals: White-rump 9, 7(16) [E→, W→, ←total]; Charadrius falklandicus 9,7(16); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1); Rufous-backed Negrito 1,3(4); Geositta 1,0(1). At 0835 I turned S and ran the Arroyo totals: White-rump 13, 28(41) [on grid subunits → 13; between → 28; ← total]; Charadrius falklandicus 16(30)46;

Buff-breasted Sandpiper 0,1(1); Hudsonian godwit 0,1(1); Southern lapwing 3,11(14) Southern Screamer 0,4(4); Maguari Stork 0,1(1); Speckled teal 0,7(7); B. Hooded gull 0,5(5); Kelp gull 0,1(1); Agelaius thilius ♂ 7,0(7); Geositta 1,1(2); Cinclodes 1,0(1); RB Negrito 3,4(7); Correndera pipit 1,6(7). The increase in WR #'s was due to several small groups, including one with R v Ly. 6 Banded WR, 2 banded falklandicus. Finished run down at 0905 and went out to the Tower Llanos Swamp.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

Wind picked up to moderate from the N. I went across the Llanos to the swamp at the E end, seeing WR and Cliff swallows. Lessonia rufa, Anthus correndera, Vanellus, Thinocorus rumicivorus, Rhea and several unidentified tall grass dwelling furnariids en route (the latter just before the swamp)

Journal

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

24 March cont'd

spent an hour within the swamp. 50+ WR sandpipers, 15 Stilt Sandpipers, 10 G-Yllegs, 15 L-Yllegs, 7 H Godwits, ~~Blk~~ 25-30 Nycticryphes, a few BN Stilt. The swamp has receded even further now. The 20 Poscoroba Swans present when I drove up were standing in the middle.

Punta Raza, 15 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyú by road, Ptdo. de Gral. LaValle, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

28 March

dawn fairly clear with ≈15% cloud cover. Cool (17°), slight wind from the S. We arrived yesterday evening at dusk from Estancia Medland, and camped on the beach ~300 m S. of the North tip of Punta Raza, windward side. Tide last night was well out, as it was before dawn this morning. Sun ~~hit~~ horizon within one or two minutes before 0800. On the windward (NE) side there is, at low tide, ~100-150 m of exposed sand beach. High tide appears (judging from beach sign) to leave ~40 m left between waves and the low, vegetation covered ~~sand~~ sand dunes beyond. The shoreline is not at all steep, rising no more than 2 m between low tide line and high tide (I estimate). At dawn we walked from the small shanty near our camp across a low, wet area which lies ~~east~~ West of the dunes, going ~~south~~ to the lee side of Punta Raza, where an extensive series of mud flats exist. ~~Thereafter~~ We followed the high tide line west to the first major Arroyo (300 m) and then followed that inland (SE) for ~500 m. Prospecting inland along the Arroyo the soil becomes very muddy, and is at times impassable on foot (sans snowshoes). The mud is covered with colonies of crabs, which extend as far as from the low tide line up into the vegetation (which appears to be infrequently (at least) flooded. Most of the vegetation is Salicornia, also some salt-grass-like growth. After ~~took~~ trekking through them "cangrejales" for the approx. distance estimated above, we returned to the road, following it back to the car. ~~Then~~ Continuing beyond said contraption, we took the beach NW to the end of Punta Raza, then followed the lee side back to where we had emerged upon it in the initial part of the walk. Returned to car. Total time 3.5 hrs. The shorebird situation here is not as bounteous as I'd expected (M.E. Rumboll had described the place as a "staging area for Northward migration") ~~Altogether~~ ~~extended~~ ~~area~~ Thus far, we have not seen the habitat yet as the tide turns out. Along the ~~east~~ windward shore were a few scattered sanderling, totaling no more than 10, plus fewer black-bellied plover, 5 Charadrius, 10-15 Falklandicus American Oystercatcher, 2 WR sandpipers, many Kelp gulls, + Bhooded gulls ten 10'ed terns, and a Parasitic jaeger (~~short~~ pointed central tail feathers ~~as~~ extending less than 2", very ratty plumage with considerable white)

Punta Raza, 15 Km N. of San Clemente del Tuyú by road, Ptdo de Gnal. Lavalle, Prvia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

28 March cont'd

the situation with the lee side was somewhat better. A total of perhaps 30 Sanderling, over 100 WR, especially in the Arroyo, with not so many out in the great mud flat. 1 Arenaria interpres, at least 20 Actitis macularia!! 1 semipalmated plover, perhaps 30 Hudsonian godwit, over 50 Charadrius falklandicus, 6 American Oystercatcher (10 squatarola). Also a large flock of Kelp and brown-hooded gulls. 6 Spoonbills. The dominant theme of all the small shorebirds was spacing - most of them were operating in tight flocks of any size, most of them were foraging separately. The Actitis were all well up the Arroyo in an area with considerable streamside vegetation, including (on one side) some over hanging trees. Several of them were showing breast spots, suggesting some pre-alternate molt. [illegible] Other shorebirds (besides the Actitis) also showing signs of molt, with godwits leading, followed by fuscicollis and squatarola, which continue to have individuals varying greatly in the degree of molt, alba which just now appears to be beginning signs of capital tract molt - nothing on back, + indeed only smudginess on the head. Observed one aggressive interaction between falklandicus and semipalmatus - the latter, tho not the aggressor, appeared to win. As we reached the point on the lee side at the end of the wall, I searched the mud flat as far as the scope was effective, + detected one concentration of shorebirds over 500 m to the W. we will be there when the tide goes out (it is not accessible from here without several km's detour, because of the Arroyo). By 1130 cloud cover had increased to 70%, all high stratus, with a moderate South wind.

Between 1230 and 1430 we walked SE along the windward shore to a lagoon 1.5 km S. of the N end of Punta Raza. During the time, the wind remained moderate from the S, clearing the sky to a 10% cover. Temperature rose to ~23°C. And, of course, the tide came in as we walked, reaching ~high tide by 1500. Shorebird dispersion changed considerably as the afternoon began: we we departed, things were as described for this morning, i.e. considerable spacing w/ no large groups. Charadrius falklandicus was to be found all along the beach, solitary or groups of 2-3, often aggressing in territorial defense. White rumps were few in number, except for a loose exposed mud bar about 600 m along the route, where we found a flock of 10. Sanderlings remained solitary or groups of 2-3. 3 Ruddy turnstones traveling together, as well as 8 Knots (one in complete breeding plumage, most in complete winter). However, by the time that we had reached the end the tidal flow had made significant progress, and

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28 March (cont'd)

Punta Raza, 15 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyú by road, Ptdo de Gral Lavalle, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

at the lagoon where our ~~path~~ path ended we found a flock of mixed shorebirds, some bathing, some feeding, others resting, of over 100 birds. It was comprised of Calidris fuscicollis (30); Calidris alba 5; Arenaria interpres 2; Haematopus palliatus 5; Vanellus chilensis 2; Pluvialis squatarola 3; Charadrius falklandicus 50; Tringa melanoleuca 2; Limosa haemastica 6; Himantopus h. 3. In the vicinity were terns of the hirundinacea type, as well as trudeavi and several maxima. Also kelp and brown-hooded gulls. Then during our return we encountered another roosting flock, all birds resting and preening about 30 m from the shore line. In this were falklandicus (80); fuscicollis ~~80~~ (80-100); alba - 5; cayanus (8); interpres (3); squatarola 1. falklandicus were the only ones remaining active - they were mainly about the periphery of this group (except for some in the main body resting with their body on the ground), with considerable aggression between them. The roosting site was a 25 x 150 m sandy flat opening in the dunes which had been filled recently by wave action (tho' considerably above the tide line). It was surrounded by dune grass, except for the ~~sea~~ sea-ward side which was largely unenclosed. Where did the birds come from? - they obviously were not foraging along the nearby stretches of beach. Although I did not see this quantity fly in, while we were walking S, and particularly while we were observing the flock found at our S-most point - I kept detecting individuals flying over from the direction of the extensive mud flats to the NW. ~~1545~~ 1545 tide changed perceptibly and is definitely going out. At ~~1600~~ 1640 detected first shorebirds - white-rumps flying ~~N~~ W along the beach. We have come to a stretch of beach ~~now~~ now mud flat 1-2 Km W of the tip of Punta Raza, reachable by road after a 8 Km detour back toward San Clemente. This is the area where this morning I thought that I could detect large quantities of shorebirds foraging. At high tide there is no exposed beach, but instead a steep bank separating the water from a grove of fig trees (no less) plus other assorted shrubs + grasses, including several flats of Salicornia. The 2 WR seen at 1640 were quickly followed by ~~5~~ 5 more shorebirds - ~~3~~ 3 WR, an alba and a falklandicus. By this time up to 25 m of sand and mud were exposed in several places along the 700 m of flat near to us, although most areas had been exposed by considerably less. Wind this afternoon is light to moderate out of the South, with a 10% cloud cover. In several spots along this stretch of the shore miniature estuaries flowing to the main body of water. As the tide recedes, the empty almost or completely, revealing mud flats of varying sizes. One such estuary was of considerable size, over 100 m

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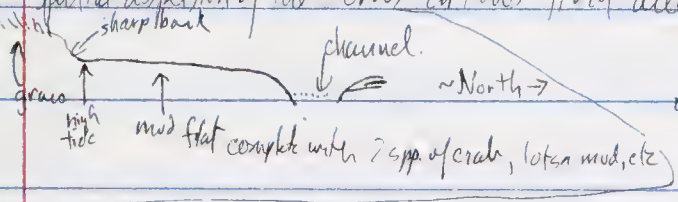
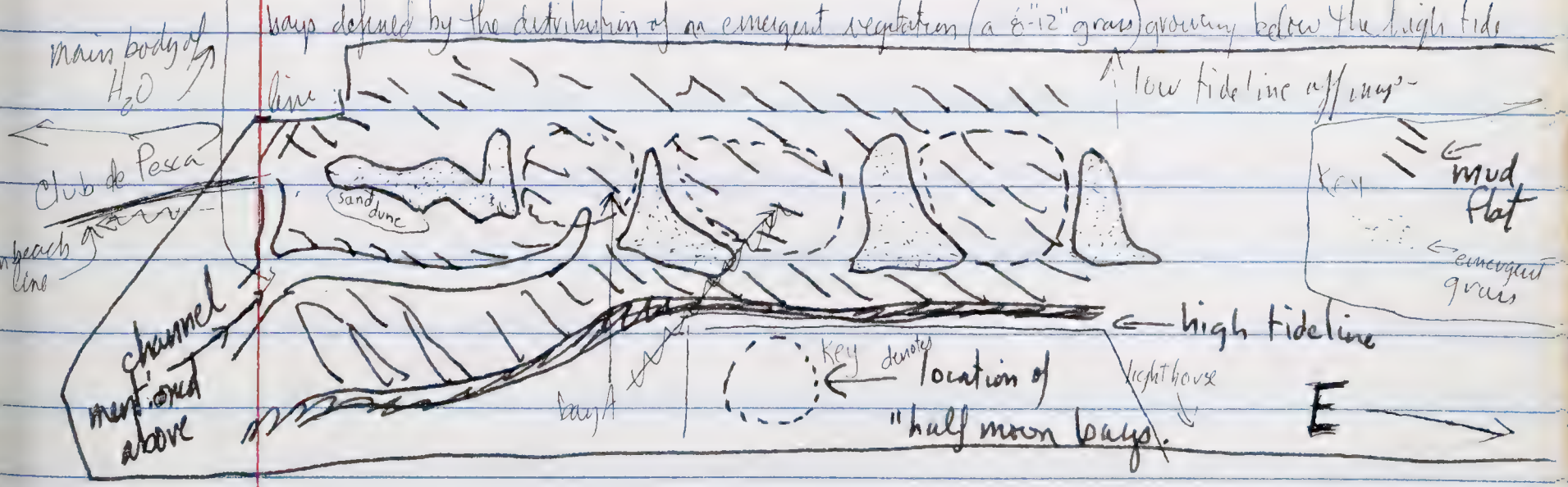
Punta Raga, 5 km N of San Clemente del Tuyú by road, Ptdo de Gral. Lavalle, Prcia. de. Buenos Aires, Argentina

28 March (cont'd)

wide, curving out of sight to the SE (not as far as it sounds, but it must have run over a km inland). By the time we reached this estuary the water was low enough to have reduced to a stream less than 10m wide, leaving an exposed mud flat of 100 m at least. The relief of the mud flat was significant. I believe, to the spatial dispersion of the birds in this tidal area far contrast later to the main mud flat → to the N!



Of particular interest is the sharp break into the channel, which was less than 10 m wide. As the tide went out, after a brief period in which a very broad flat was revealed, subsequent outflow altered the position of the tide line little in terms of horizontal movement. On this flat we found a flock of 10+ ruddy turnstones, 2 BA Shrike, several Wilsonian godwit, 3 Ch. falklandicus, 1 P squatarola, 3 knots, and 10 W Rumps. All these birds (+ those seen earlier) have approached foraging areas from the E. 1659 - a winter plumage Tringa! 1709 - to this minute, the birds have not been observed to habitat in large groups - nothing larger than a flock of 6 so far. And, except for the knots, all birds are fairly dispersed. Squatarola behaving territorially. 1718 - 2 Wilsonii flew over to E. By 1725 I was struck by the fact that not all birds are feeding continuously. For example, at that time I could see an alba and a squatarola (separated by several hundred meters) resting. This is out of a "flock" - i.e. those birds visible within 200 m - of less than 30 total. 1732 - the numbers of shorebirds present is still not overwhelming. By now I've seen 2 10 knot, 20-30 turnstone, 150 - WR, perhaps a bit fewer (than 150) falklandicus. 1755 - first American oystercatcher this afternoon. Part of the mud flats here are interspersed with a series of short little half-moon bays defined by the distribution of an emergent vegetation (a 6"-12" grass) growing below the high tide line:



There are flocks of shorebirds in each of the bays. For example, in bay A in the easternmost quarter (an area of 75 × 30 m) there are 23 Ch. falklandicus,

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Punta Raza, 15 Km N' of San Clemente del Tuyú by road, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

28 March (cont'd)

and 8 White-rumps. The rest of Bay A is noticeably deficient in Shorebirds. Among the birds present there is very little sign of overt interaction - certainly no territoriality. The distances between us + them would allow subtle interactions to pass unnoticed. 1820 - Parasitic jaeger harassing gulls + terns. The shorebirds on Mud Islands rise en masse at its approach. 1850 - in the channel described on the previous page there is a fairly tight flock - 10 WR and 1 H godwit - within 10 x 10 m as well as 1 H godwit, all oriented in the same direction moving up the Arroyo. In the last 20 min they have moved 150 m, over an area in which there are no other WR, & only 2 Ch. falklandicus and 2 other H. godwit. Thus it is difficult to state that their is a lack of space here - what there is is a very tight clumping of birds even in the habitat and, at least in this instance, organized motion along that. Returned to car slowly along mud flat, reaching it ~15 min before sunset (i.e. @ 1945) The falling tide situation has not greatly altered my morning's impression that Punta Raza is not the shorebird heaven it has been made out to be. The most numerous shorebird was Ch. falklandicus, followed by White-rumps. Total numbers of these birds, on the S side of the main mud flat, did not exceed 1000/species. None of the other species exceeded 100/species: Arenaria interpres, Calidris canutus, American oystercatcher, Hudsonian godwit, Black-bellied plover. A few species, alba, Eonibyx, + whimbrel were less numerous than the 2nd class, probably under 30 birds. Severely absent from the flat were Southern lapwings. See Arenaria, fuscicollis, Parasitic jaeger spp accnt.

29 March.

Sun rose at 0758. temp = 11° at dawn, no wind clouds <5%. We went back to the area where we had observed yesterday afternoon, the mud flats lying along the lee side of Punta Raza, approached from a hunting + fishing club W of the lighthouse. 0845 we were walking down the mud flat from the club. Tide is out very far but may still be retreating. At the club the mud is ~75 m wide, after which a channel of several hundred meters width prevails. Across the channel is another strip of mud similar to that on this side. As on this side, the mud does not remain equivalent in width. In some places the flat is over 150 m W. to the North, across the channel, it continues for over a Km. Immediately across the channel from the club at this time was a flock of @ 100 WR and 24 Hudsonian godwits. Further E along the opposite side, as the flat turns north away from Punta Raza, are additional shore-

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March
cont'd

Punta Raza, 15 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyú by road, Ptdo de Gral Lavalle, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

birds foraging. There is a long, narrow strip of pebbly beach which appears to define the N side of the channel. On and around it were 65 godwits, 40 whimps, 27 Knots, 30-40 turnstone. However, as yesterday, I am not overwhelmed by the great numbers of shorebirds. (Why aren't there more? Others present include Charadrius falklandicus, (most numerous on this side of the channel where they predominate over WR) 5-10 lesser & yellow legs, many American oystercatchers as well as black-bellied plovers, only a few sanderlings. 0935 - total estimate of WR is close to 1000, same for Charadrius falklandicus. 20 Ajai, a flock of mixed terns (20% Royals), 150 Kelp gulls, many brown-hooded. The knot total is over 100. Distribution of the birds now, at low tide, is not even even along the tidal front. Jaeger present again.

While contemplating the tidal situation here, comparing it with that in which I have been immersed for the last several months (i.e. non-tidal arroyo + mud flats in swamps) the region difference between the ~~~ I have been considering the possibility that the major difference between these habitats [in terms of what factors affect the % of space-specific aggression] is one of temporal stability: the probability that A bird foraging in a suitable location in the non-tidal area which at time N will be able to forage at that location in N+1 is much higher than are foraging in a tidal area, except perhaps on a cyclical basis. The % of total foraging time available to the bird during which foraging near a tidal location can be exploited is small with respect to the % at a non-tidal, non-cyclical location. These two variables are continuous - "% time available" and "probability at time N+1" - how do they vary with respect to % of space-oriented aggression? Heavy.

During the late morning until 1500 we were along the windward side of Punta Raza where we had been at the same time yesterday. The express purpose of the visit was to collect from the roosting site decided yesterday. However, we began our trek long before the tide had come up (it turned at about 1130) and thus spent a considerable time waiting for the birds to appear. Unlike we first arrived, there was one Ch. falklandicus - it may occupy this area territorially. Other falklandicus were scattered along the beach, as were a few American oystercatchers, black-bellied

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Punta Raza, 15 Km N of San Clemente del Tuyú by road, Ptdo de Gnal. Lavalle, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

29 March cont'd

plover, Sanderling, ~~WR's~~ WR's, Knots and Arenaria enterpres. The Knots were foraging directly out from the roost on the beach (there were 8). Most WR's I found were in the lagoon described 3/28 at the S end of our explorations ~~there~~ along the windward shore. Until 1430 I detected little change in the general picture, except that 6 Falklandicus were by then roosting in the roost. We had been walking up + down the beach, certainly not contributing to the bird's bliss - nor were the activities of several other humans. Probably as a result, some of the birds, particularly the Knots, oystercatchers, + plovers - moved out just passed the lagoon, beyond the focus of human activity. Knots by that time numbered 14, and were resting with a flock of 100+ terns. ~~Knots~~ By 1501 the roosting flock has swelled to 50-60 birds, composed of more than 50% Falklandicus, most of the rest WR, one Arenaria, and one knot. We sat down by the beach in site of the roost, + watched the birds enter. Some flew directly in, often from points beyond view in either direction along the shore. However WR's often stopped to forage in the beach in front, + after a variable interval then they scurried up the beach to the roost. The Arenaria approached this way, as did a few Falklandicus. When I finally collected there were 5 Sanderlings down on the beach in front as well. Typically the approach process, if it involved a stop to forage, also entailed a brief preening for wash + boot immediately prior to going to roost. The foraging site was a 10 m wide gently inclined sand beach which for over 20 min during the rising tide received intermittent shallow baths as bigger waves began to invade the shore. And inland beyond this flat was a pool, less than 2 m wide, 10 m long, where several birds had foraged before the wave began to wash the gentle slope. I collected 5 WR (125-129).

Tower Llanos, Estancia Wedeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

31 ~~April~~ March

rained 30cm last night

ensconced in blind in tower Llanos swamp from 1615 to 2015. I placed the blind within the swamp over a month ago, and have used it sporadically for photographing. I moved the blind to its present position 3/26 because that afternoon I had observed numerous Nychicryptes in the tules in that vicinity. The blind was ~9 m ~~across~~ away from the edge of a tule strip running between higher land and open water. I was across the open water, on a stretch of semi-dried black mud. The water at the base of the tules appeared to be less than 2" deep. While waiting in the blind for the swamp to recover from my rude intrusion, I

Journal

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

31 March (cont'd) surveyed a flock of WR ~75 m W across the main body of open water, looking for banded birds. I found two - RrLg and RgLg in the 64 WR present at 1650. Soon afterward birds started to appear at the S. end of the swamp: a WF Ibis foraged in front of the blind for 20 minutes, probing of an open bill in the mud in and at the edge of the tule stand. 2 spp of coot, including young of both + adults of one, Rhinocryptes, many-colored marsh-tyrant, a ♀ Rosy-billed pochard, + Nycticryphes. (See Nyct sp. accent.) Unfortunately the Nyct's were not very cooperative for photographing, emerging completely from the tule with falling light. I did obtain some fotos of them + the WF Ibis. At 1740 total count in the swamp, visible in a 75×40 m shallow drying lagoon: 11 Hgodwit, 20 Micropalama, 19 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 GY legs, 4 screamer, ~50 White-rumps, many brown hooded gulls, a few YB Pintail, 1 Maguari stork, 6 Coscoroba, a flock of ♀ Rosy Bill Pochard; several Nycticryphes. By 1945 4 Stork had come in, more WR, an Asio flew nearby. At 1950 - 74 WR plus some I can't see. Gulls continued to fly in, as did a few screamer. 1953 9 more WR. 1956 - 17 WR, including RyLgy flew in. 2000 the sun set as 3 more WR flew in. 05 more stork. 1 Spoonbill. The wind died by sunset, never having been strong this afternoon. Cloud cover = <10% Temp ~15°C. En route back to the camp I spotlighted a felid - proportioned like a mountain lion w/ long tail etc, but considerably smaller. The hips + shoulder blades appeared to have a horizontal striping to them. Otherwise it looked a tawny brown.

1 April

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

dawn shrouded by a very heavy fog (not too high, though, as I could occasionally see a hint of blue) and 10°C. at 0745. This fog is the heaviest which has occurred since our arrival at Medland. Very slight hint of a SW wind. Because of poor light (i.e. fog) I sampled the 1st 4 linear grid units from the beach rather than above it. Although the car's presence does not shift WR position it does push ducks, GY legs, etc, in front of us. Before reaching the grid however, I found 2 spp which are new this year to Arroyo Chico: Zonibyx modestus (3, all in winter plumage) and Micropalama himantopus (2). Grid totals: White-rump E→ 10, 15 (25) West; C total; Charadrius falklandicus 6, 8 (14); Hudsonian godwit 2, 4 (6); Black-necked Stilt 2, 1 (3); Neotropic Cormorant 0, 3 (3); Maguari Stork 0, 4; [4]; Buff-necked Ibis 0, 1 (1); Chilean Speckled Teal 2, 0 (2); Brown-hooded gull 1, 4 (5); Rufous-bracked Negrito 1, [illegible].

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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia. de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1 April (cont'd)

After completing the sample I drove S along the linear grid looking for banded birds. Despite the 30 cm rain of 30-31 April the Arroyo was at its lowest level yet, with several new islands appearing and old foraging areas disappearing. Totals: White-rump on subunit 23, between subunit 42 (65 total); Charadrius falklandicus 20,29(49); Zonibyx modestus 1,0(1); Hudsonian godwit 4,4(8); Black Necked Stilt 4,10(14); Southern lapwing 4,10(14); Greater Yellowlegs 0,2(2); Speckled teal 0,25(25); Brown-hooded gull 4,20(24); Geositta cunicularia 0,2(2); Cinclodes fuscus 0,1(1); Rufous-bached Negrito 4,9(13); Correndera Pipit 1,0(1). 6 Banded WR, 4 territorial and 2 non. 4 banded Ch. falklandicus. The WR numbers are obviously up from the last few readings of March, and the increase did not result from the presence of any one flight flock. Rather, there were generally more birds in all areas (except where there had been birds before, + these areas appeared to have similar #'s) thus the 'invaders' are in holes.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medeland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

After finishing in the Arroyo I went out onto the llanos to search for buffies. After a considerable search I found a flock of 20 between the thistle patch S of the tower and the ditch before the gate. One other solitary buffie to the E from there. Also found 5 Oreophotes on Grid 7 (see p. accent). Thinocorus are very numerous now, I found several hundred in the SW quarter of the llanos. Numerous Lessonia, Anthus, and Vanellus are still dispersed over the short grass areas. By 1000, about half-way through my search, the fog was not burned off completely, but it had dissapated enough to show a perfectly clear sky above. Wind continued to pick up from SW, but never became strong. Returned to camp at 1030.

Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N. of Mar Chiquita by road, Ptdo de Mar Chiquita, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

2 April

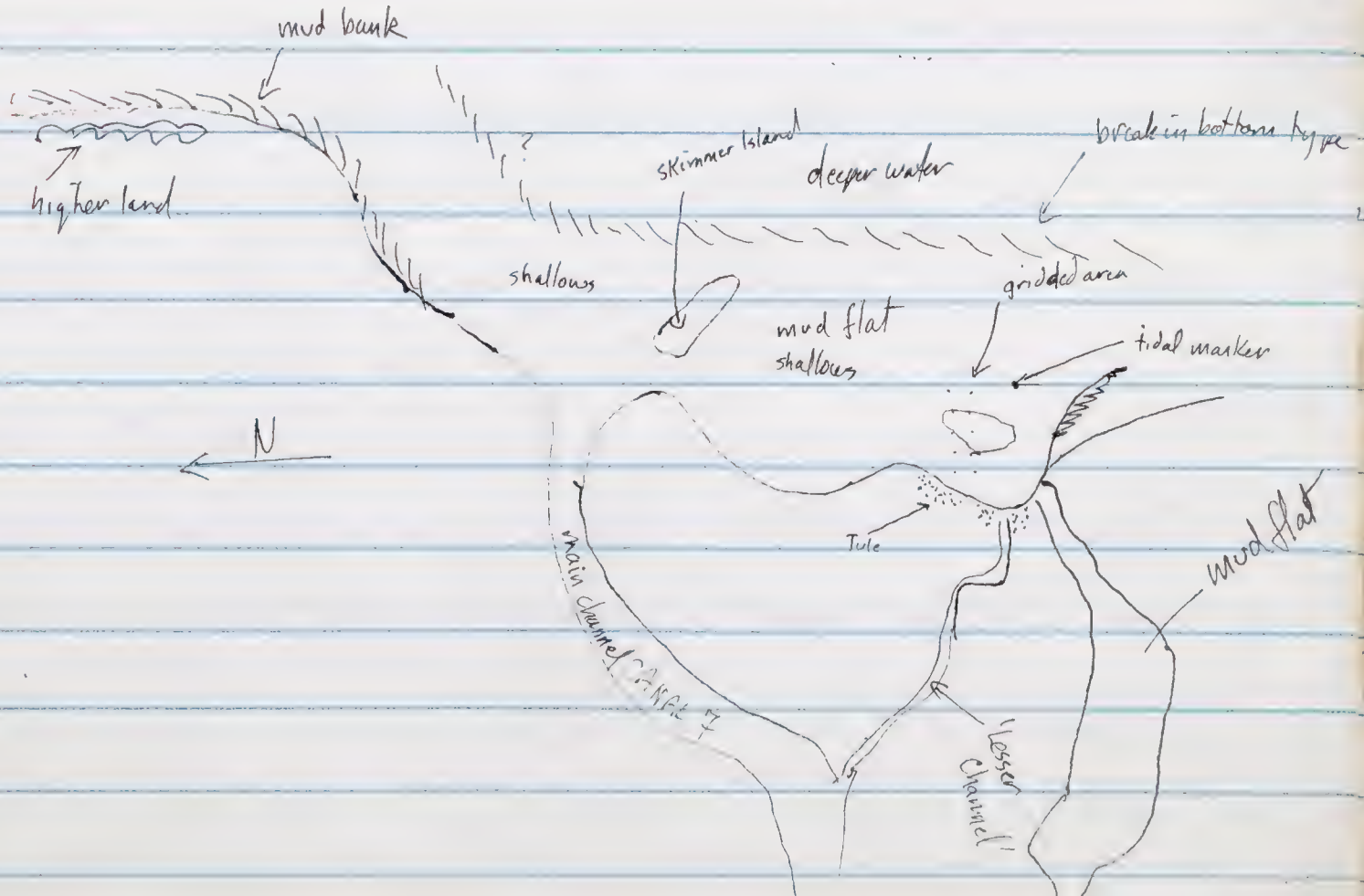
1810 began walking from end of road out to the mouth of canal 7. 0% clouds, wind light to mod from E. temp ≈ 22°-23° C. Moon visible, 3/5 full. Entering Laguna Mar Chiquita, Canal 7 splits into one main channel and a minor one, forming a broad delta - a very shallow mud plain of over 300 x 200 m dimensions. In this broad area when we arrived were several exposed flats of sand, terminating 125 m from shore, and between they several shallow 'channels'. The total effect is one of an intricate mosaic of interposed sand, mud, + water. To make the habitat more intricate, there is

Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N. of Mar Chiquita by road, Ptdo de Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

2 April (cont'd)

the 'sub mouth' of the lesser Canal 7 channel, are small 'islands' of floating vegetation (the name of which I don't know, but it is characteristic of many swamps in the Province, Ptcha forming often a dense mat. The plants are small, of less than an 1" in diameter, + multicolored w/ some red + some green). These islands are never larger than 4' or 5' across, usually 1'-2', of very convoluted form, + separated by water varying in width from 2"-8" (Water depth varies from 0' to 0.5' to less than 1" esp over a large % of this canal delta. Beyond the last sand-mud bar it gradually increases in depth, or I after ~150 m there is a sharp break in bottom type - it becomes deeper +, at low water, broken by a multitude of mud mounds (see 21 March). Someone has conveniently placed a water depth marker out on the flat ~ 200 m from shore - at 1820 it read Red 1. Shorebirds covered the delta over 500 wr, dispersed in 2 flocks (one at the mouth of the lesser channel, the other at the tip of a large sand island to the W. ("Skimmer Island") Also present: 100+ Hudsonian godwit, many BWS fit, as many as 50 each of Gr + L Yellowlegs, Charadrius falklandicus (100+), over 50 Micropalama, a few Southern Lapwing, 8-10 flamingo, 20 spoonbill, Cocoi heron, Common egret, Red Shoveler, YB Pintail, Speckled Teal, Cosoroba Swan, Black Necked Swan, Black Skimmer, Kelp gull, brown-hooded gull, Southern Screamer, Maguari Stork, Cinclodes fuscus, Lessonia rufa, White-rumped Swallow, Cliff Swallow (1) ♀, Phleocryptes

A rough map of the area: the proportions are only rough - N-S dimensions are somewhat compressed with respect to E-W.



Journal

Mouth of Canal Tinto Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N of Mar Chiquita by road, Pdo de Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

2 April (cont'd) At the mouth of Lesser Channel we placed a series of stakes 25 m apart forming a strip of 4 25×25 m units. After completing this we walked to the N edge of Skimmer Island, after which Lois returned to camp and I continued N along the shore, reaching the higher land + mud bank noted on the maps just before 2000 at sunset. It was along here 21 March were the majority of the 5000+ WR had been foraging. This evening, with the exposed mud extending only 25 m out from shore, there are considerably fewer WR present, perhaps 500-1000 along the mud bank. I returned to camp, cutting across the shallows to Skimmer Island + returning via Lesser Channel, arriving at 2015. See WR sp account.

3 April placed net at mouth of Lesser Channel in closest grid unit at 0615. slight NW wind, 0% clouds, 17°C. as we came out onto the mud we found several Himantopus h. and one Nycticryphes. ☉ Sun lit horizon 0805. By 0650 light level was beginning to change, + at 0700 Tringa began to filter into area. 1/2 WR heard till 0715, + non approaches net area until 0750. Water out considerably - the outermost grid unit last evening had 1"+ of H_2O - this morning it is wet mud. The WR appearing to respond to the lowered water, were first seen in a large, very dense band at the new water edge, not very far inland from the break in bottom type (see 2 April map). Small bands of them left the main flock at varying intervals, trickling closer + closer to land. We eventually cleared 6 WR + 1 Ch. fold lanticas into the net. Furled it at 0845, well after they began to avoid it effectively.

Returned to mud flat at 1030, sat down on edge of vegetation, and observed WR's until 1300. I took an extensive series of observations on the dispersion of the WR within subunit 1 of the grid placed yesterday. Notes are in WR sp account. Through the morning the weather remained similar to that the last two except that the wind gradually shifted to the SW. Clouds 0% (No new species seen. A large % of WR present within the area close to my observation post were territorial or partially so. 1400 returned again to mud flat. This time Lois used my observation post in order to get an independent interpretation of what the WR were doing. In turn, I sat where she had been this morning and photographed territorial interactions. Wind picked up, as did cloud cover, which grew to 30% puffy small cumulus. At 1510 however, a carload of rowdy - semi drunk, and armed Argentinos appeared at the mouth + began shooting. We left. ☉ see WR sp account.

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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of [redacted], Juancho by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

4 April

Entered the [redacted] Arroyo at 0755 - clouds 35%, no wind. The level has dropped beyond where it was 1 April, to the point where the old island at the curve S. below the tower has now become [redacted] a peninsula. While running the grid we found several stretches where the water was less than 1m across, although in most places it is still 2m+. For the first time I saw a WR swim (or wade) across, though current is still detectable. Grid totals: White-rump 20, 11 (31) E W total Hudsonian godwit 6,0(6); Charadrius falklandicus 12,9(21); Zonibyx modestus 1,2(3); Southern lapwing 0,3(3); Black Necked-stilt 3,4(7); Neotropic cormorant 5,0(5); Maguari Stork 0,1(1); Speckled teal 2,7(9); Correndera pipit 1,0(1). Returning down the Arroyo we found 5 banded WR (none banded before 2/16/74) and 2 banded Ch. falklandicus totals: White-rump [redacted] (84) on subunits 25 59 returns; Charadrius falklandicus [redacted] (51) 15 36 Total; Hudsonian Godwit [redacted] (15) 3 12; [redacted] Zonibyx modestus 2,2(4); Black-necked stilt 4,12(16); Southern lapwing 4,2(6); Southern Screamer 0,2(2); Speckled teal 0,4(4); Kelp gull 0,9(9); Brown-hooded gull 3,3(6); Rufous-backed negrito 1,1(2); Cinclodes fuscus 2,2(4); Correndera pipit 0,1(1).

11 April

The last week or so was spent in the capital, Buenos Aires. Upon return we were told that 2 days before (9 April) it had rained 36 mm. Today that is still evident, with a thick low mist hanging over the fields in the pre-dawn light. Otherwise, 0% clouds, temp at 0700 = 9°C. (Wind) = 0. The arroyo appears to have risen several inches as a result of the rain, but by this morning it has receded to approximately the same level as 9 April (suggested by the 3' wide wet borders). Grid totals White rump 23,6(29); Hudsonian godwit 2,0(2); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1); Southern lapwing 0,1(1); Charadrius falklandicus 11,11(22); Zonibyx modestus 3,3(6); Black Necked Stilt 0,2(2); Speckled teal 0,1(1); Yellow-billed pintail 0,5(5); Lessonia rufa 0,2(2); Geositta cunicularia 0,1(1). Running down the Arroyo: White-rump 18,56(74); [redacted] Southern lapwing 3,1(4); Charadrius falklandicus 17,39(56); Zonibyx 2,3(5); B.N Stilt 4,7(11); [redacted] Neotropic Cormorant 0,1(1); Southern Screamer 0,2(2) YB Pintail 0,4(4); Sp. teal 0,10(10); B.hooded gull 3,7(10); R.b. Negrito 1,2(3); Geositta c. 2,1(3); Cinclodes fuscus 0,1(1); Correndera pipit 0,1(1). Mist was partially burned off by 0845, though even after finishing the runs it was obscuring vision somewhat. Notable event today was the appearance

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Journal

11 April cont'd

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juando by road, Prdo de Madariaga, Prvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina (Tower Llanos)

0900: 2 old banded birds not seen for several weeks: RyLpy and RpLg. The latter was on its old territory. After completing the counts we drove out over the llanos to Tower llanos swamp. En route, despite a fairly thorough search of the llanos S and E of the thistle patch, I found only 2 buffies (but many Thinocorus). The Tower Llanos swamp now has dried to the point where a border of mud buffers all but a very small stretch of tule from open water. In fact, there is now a minimum of 3' of dried mud around most of the main body of water. WR #'s down to 25 birds (one banded - RgLg) - and now there are more fall landings along the dried mud border. W. I tromped through several patches of tule, including one with water at the base, but was unable to spook any Nycticryphes to flight. There were no ducks or geese in the pond either, nor even any coots. From the llanos swamp we drove back to the Arroyo, and I continued up to Rte 11 bridge. WR along the Arroyo were predominately in several small and tight flocks - very few obviously territorially spaced birds except in one area, ~500 m W of the New N of the linear grid. Found one Golden in the pastures along the Arroyo, and many small flocks of Seedsnipe. Only one Eoniobyx along entire stretch. Returning to camp we passed over the NW part of Tower llanos, again looking for buffies. Not only did I find a flock of Tryngites (~15) but also 12 Orcopholus (collected one - 130) and a very tight flock of 10 Eoniobyx all within a small area about 50 m NE from unit 2,2 of Grid 46. Shorebird diversity on the llanos is up! Returned to camp at 1500. During the late afternoon I went out onto the llanos again, going first to do a general survey to find upland birds - I then located myself near the only group of buffies seen: they were on Grids 7 and 46. In addition, one Eoniobyx was foraging with them, a flock of 17 Orcopholus was in the 7 and the thistle patch to the S, and Thinocorus were in the thistle and around the border. Vanellus plus Thinocorus were the most widely distributed spp on the llanos, apart from Dessonia and Anthus (although both of these may have decreased somewhat in density, particularly the latter. At 1825 I moved from my observation position on just W of Grid 46 (0,2) to a site near the flock of upland birds, in (0,1) of Grid 4. (See Tryngites, Eoniobyx, Orcopholus and Thinocorus sp. accts) Seen hit homing at 1925, w/a clear sky + light S. wind. I returned to camp 2015.

Arroyo Clico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Kms. S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

12 April

Left camp for Linear grid subunit 9 at 0600 in a heavy low fog. Temp 9° at 0600. Within the hour a slight N wind picked up. We came out for netting, by 0710 having 3 nets placed. Driving up the Arroyo from the fence at the S end of Tower Llanos I found roosting Charadrius falk. Zonibyx, and Vanellus WR. I was almost able to grab them spot-lighted in the Arroyo. Ajaia was present, foraging in the dark with its typically back + forth sweeping. Nycticorax also there. At 0700 I heard one WR, + we caught one just about that time. They did not appear in quantity until 0730, though Charadrius falklandicus, Himantopus, Vanellus, and Tringa were calling by 0715. We netted 7 WR, one previously banded (RyLpr), and returned to camp after pushing the nets. (See WR sp. accent)

13 April

At subunit 1 of linear grid at 0800. temp 0700 = 16°. heavy low fog, light N wind. Cloud cover other than the fog appears to be 0, as I the cover occasionally reveals clear patches above. I came out to the Arroyo at 0700, + spent the hour walking around with the headlamp. En route, driving up to the tower, I found WR roosting in the Arroyo - there were several small groups by the creek S. of the tower. Also Ch. falk and Zonibyx. On the llanos near the tower I found Thinocorus still roosting where they had been foraging 4/11 in the evening, reinforcing my opinion that they roost where they forage. Began reading grid at 0806. Totals: White-rump 13,20(33); Hudsonian godwit 1,1(2); G Yllegs 2,0(2); Ch. falklandicus 6,9(13); Zonibyx 0,4(4); Black Necked Stilt 12,12(24); Neotropic Cormorant 2,0(2); Maguari Stork 1,3(4); Cocoi heron 1,0(1); Speckled teal 1,9(10); B.H. Gull 1,1(2); Rufous-backed negrito 1,0(1); Cinclodes fuscus 2,0(2). Running down total: White-rump 26,46(72); H. godwit 5,4(9); Gallinago gallinago 1,0(1); G Yllegs 0,2(2); L Yllegs 0,1(1); S. lapwing 3,8(11); Char. falklandicus 17,30(47); Zonibyx 3,7(10); B.N. Stilt 28,32(60); S. Screamer 0,2(2); Neotropic Cormorant 2,2(4); Sp. teal 9,0(9); YB Pintail 4,2(6); Maguari Stork 0,3(5); WF Ibis 0,3(3); B.H. Gull 5,30(35); Cinclodes fuscus 1,1(2); R.B. Negrito 2,5(7); C. pipit 1,0(1). White-rump numbers are very close to those from the last survey, 4/11. See sp. accnt. After finishing the latter count I returned to subunit 10-9, at 0930, and sat there until 1100. When I arrived a small flock of WR was present, along with a Zonibyx and Ch. falklandicus. However the flock soon left, followed in less than one minute by a larger flock of small shorebirds,

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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Tuancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

13 April (cont'd) followed closely by a Peregrine falcon, flying north, low over the arroyo (20' high). It passed almost directly overhead + was unmistakable. Although the Zonibyx and 2 Ch. falkl returned before I left at 1100, only 3 WR approached the area, walking slowly while feeding up from subunit 10.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires

Returning from the linear grid to camp I made a complete circuit of tower llanos, looking for upland species. Found 100+ Thinocorus, especially near the thistle patch, 2 Zonibyx (both solitary), and 2 Oreophilus by the N fence, and 2 Tryngites, near the tower.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

At dusk we went to the Arroyo to try a new trapping technique: I built a butterfly-type net w/a 10' alamo pole to snare spot-lighted birds. From previous mornings with the car headlamps I thought that such a net would be productive. By 1900 the sun was behind a heavy bank of SW clouds, and a strong S wind was bringing a high fog overrun from the S, racing over the pampas. The rapidity with which the sky changed from a friendly puffy-cumulus to the low threatening + immensely dark cover was impressive. No noticable temp drop; in fact it was quite warm. I was amazed at the arroyo to find that at several spots, particularly by the curve, there was no current. Indeed, several small sand spits ran completely across. Perhaps it is the S wind, opposing the current + pushing the H_2O back up, as I doubt that it would have dried that much today. WR, 2 Ch. falk., Vanellus, Himantopus, and Zonibyx were all roosting in the arroyo, with concentrations at the curve below the tower and between 8 + 7 of the linear grid. See WR sp. accnt. I was unable to catch anything. Sun lit horizon at 1925; we returned to camp 2130. One vizcacha. 4 Nycticorax hunting along linear grid. Many crabs out at night. Ajaia

15 April out in Arroyo 0700 spot-lighting WRs unsuccessfully (see sp. accnt.), largely because there were so few. I found only one definitely roosting. Many Ch. falkl landicus. Temp 0630 = 16°. 100% clouds (no fog), light N wind. 0805 began reading linear grid. The Arroyo, in contrast to the evening of 13 April, is now flowing again, even if it is only

Journal

15 April (cont'd)

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Ivanchu by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

a foot or so wide and .5" deep in some places. At several places along the grid, in subunit 1 (at the curve), subunit 4, and subunit 9-10, there appears to be a slightly raised portion of the arroyo, effectively serving as a dam, so that in these spots the channel is very narrow, and between them there are long + somewhat wider reservoirs.

Grid totals: White-rump 11,6(17); Hudsonian godwit 1,1(2); Charadrius falklandicus 9,8(17); Zonibyx 3,2(5); Black-necked Stilt 14,13(27); R.B. Wagtail 1,1(2). Running down totals: White-rump 16,74(90); H. godwit 9,9(8); G Y legs 0,4(4); S. Lapwing 0,5(5); Ch. falklandicus 13,30(43); Zonibyx modestus 4,7(11); Black-necked Stilt 24,42(66); Neotropic cormorant 1,3(4); S. screamer 0,2(2); Magyari Stork 0,8(8); Speckled teal 0,3(3); Y.B Pintail 0,2(2); B. hooded gull 2,4(6); Circlodes fuscus 0,1(1); Cowrendera P. pit 0,1(1). After completing these counts I drove out over the llanos (finding NO buffies) and back up to the Potrero above the N end of the linear grid. A large flock of WR was foraging just beyond the fences 90 individuals, very tight although with some movement, feeding along a 75m stretch of Arroyo. This is the largest feeding assemblage I have found to date in the Arroyo. They proved to be quite skittish, + my movements spooked them, splitting the flock up somewhat. I followed them upstream, + after a brief period of observation (see WR spreadsheet) I collected 3 WR (131, 132, 133) and one Zonibyx (134). When I returned toward camp the weather was as threatening as it had been all morning - in fact a series of long linear clouds had passed over us from the NW, moving almost in direct opposition to another, lower layer of equally threatening clouds. A few drops of rain fell.

16 April

0600 went out to Arroyo with Arturo Tarac for netting between subunits 8 and 7. Temp at 0600 = 13°. No wind, slight mist with a 10% cloud cover along the E W E horizon. We were late getting out, and got only 2 nets up before light levels began to rise at 0720. First WR 0725 - approximately. Netted 5 WR, 2 Ch. falklandicus, plus one previously netted WR (RoLoy). The weights on the WR were averaging, one surpassing 60g.!! The Arroyo level in this part is very low - in fact almost no current exists. The deepest part of the channel is less than 3" deep. The average

Journal

Estancia Medelland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 April

started raining 0415 and continued until 0430, accumulating 12.5 mm. The storm first announced its presence around 0300 when lightning became ~~of~~ very frequent on the western horizon. This was the most electrically active storm that we have had here for months. At 1400 (after morning of preparing skins) Lois, Iris Prieto, and I walked from the farmhouse camp out to tower Llanos and back, taking the following route: farmhouse road to the first gate + 150 m beyond, then due N to the gate + fence at the S end of tower Llanos. We returned by following said fence SE to the windmill, then ~~east~~ following the dirt track SSW to the Estancia. With respect to shorebirds the outing was not productive - of course lapwings were in most places, except for Spartina and the tall thick grass habitat which surrounds the Spartina stands. 5 Oreophilus were by the gate leading into tower Llanos. We found no seedsnipe, nor any bufflies. Weather remained cool throughout the afternoon, not rising above 18°; cloud cover varied between 20 + 30%. Moderate SE wind. I took photographs of several of the grassland habitats which we traversed, in particular the Llanos (bermuda grass patchily distributed in another un-identified grass (Ordium?), a Trifolium and sparsely distributed thistle), and the interface between Distichlis spicata stands + a taller + thicker growth referred to above. It was interesting to note that Salicornia continued from the Distichlis into the other. Habitat interfaces, e.g. that just discussed or that between Distichlis and Cynodon dactylon are very sharp. Returning to the Estancia we passed by the Molino pond, a site I had not visited for over a month. It was completely dry, + probably afforded excellent WR habitat for some time.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, Pcia de Bs. As., Argentina

18 April

Though somewhat late in the game, perhaps I should note here that the position of the Estancia is 37°26'S and 57°10'W. Temperature this morning at 0630 = 6°C - cold enough to convince me that the austral fall has arrived. Although before dawn the sky appeared to be completely clear, by first light ~0720, patches of clouds were perceptible, and by 0800 I estimated a cloud cover of 60% - heavy cumulus raining to the E, and a slight S. wind. The arroyo level was obviously higher today - having received an influx from yesterdays' rain + rain ~1"-2". I began reading the linear grid at 0815, the approximate time at which the sun hit the horizon. Grid totals: White-rump 7,20(27); Hudsonian Godwit 4,0(4); Charadrius falklandicus 5,14(19); Limnodromus griseus 3,7(10); B.W. Stilt

9 gate
10 - fly to Accentral
18 - n' tip/Plus Fl.
Outside
2 boffice
9 - upland Zn. byr

Journal

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Prcia. de Bs. Aires, Argentina

18 April (cont'd)

3,5(8); Maguari Stork 0,3(8); Speckled teal 4,9(13); Brown hooded gull 0,1(1); Rufous backed Negrito 1,1(2). Running down totals: White-rump 40,56(96); Hudsonian godwit 5,8(13); Southern lapwing 3,5(8); Charadrius falklandicus 24,35(59); Zonibyx modestus 7,12(19); Oreopholus ruficollis 4,0 (4); Black-necked Stilt 18,13(31); Maguari Stork 0,3(3); W. faced Ibis 0,1(1); Speckled teal 4,7(11); Y-B. Pintail 3,3(6); Brown-hooded gull 2,14(16); Cinclodes fuscus 4,0(4); R-backed Negrito 1,0(1); Correndera Pipit 0,1(1). By the end of these two samples the weather had taken a form very reminiscent of that typifying November— a strong S wind with enormous cumulus formations sweeping over the grasslands. It began with a very extensive and high line of cumulus stretching NE-SW, covering the lower ¼ of the SE horizon. this moved in a NE direction, and looked as if extensive rain were falling out to sea. Then at about 1030 a more E-W line appeared, & has been with us all morning & afternoon. It is not a solid cover, but rather patchy bits of very heavy & rain laden (& losing) cumulus clouds. they pass rapidly overhead, raining hard for 1-2 minutes. Then there is no rain for another 10-15-30 minutes. The wind reached a Beaufort scale 6 by 1400 and has remained there. This changed the distribution of H_2O in the Arroyo, particularly on N-S stretches: water was pushed to the N end. WR feathers were being blown out when they foraged in a down-wind direction. After finishing the grid sample & drove out onto the llanos, and between the S gate and the N gate saw 28 Oreopholus, 2 buffins, and 9 Zonibyx, see sp. accent. as well as 25 Vanellus, ~150 Thinocorus, a large number (50-75) Lessonia, and some Anthus. There are now Cinclodes fuscus foraging on the llanos as well. After re-entering the Arroyo at subunit 4, I stopped to read RpLg's USF&W band # (to check for fading) - it was the appropriate number) and observed RyLoo for 20 minutes (see sp accent).

Laguna Mar Chiquita at the mouth of canal 7, 21 km N. of Mar Chiquita, Ptdo. de Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

19 April

Returning from Mar del Plata Luis let me off at the canal road while she went on to Tandil to collect apples. I walked out to the mouth of canal 7, arriving at the lake shore at 1720. the WR habitat was completely gone - water level has risen over 5", to the point where it is entering into the vegetation, and at the edge of the vegetation it is deep enough for Hudsonian godwits - over 3". The expanse of mud where we observed territorial WR earlier on the

Journal

Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N of Mar Chiquita, Pdo de Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

19 April (cont'd) month (see Journal 2-3 April). Infrequently during the 0.5 hours there I heard a COR, and about 1800 saw one fly over headed N. I followed it with binoculars until lost for distance; it did not land. The only shorebirds present were a flock of 30 H. godwits foraging within 25 m of shore, a few scattered black-necked stilt, and 2 spp of gull. Ducks, cocoi heron, great grebes and common egrets also out in the old flats + beyond.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Ivanchos by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

20 April reached subunit 8-7 of linear grid at 0630, and by 0710 had placed 3 nets across the Arroyo. (spooked 3 WR roosting there; there may have been more.) The morning was clear + quite cold – 2° in camps at 0600, local patches of frost out in the fields. No wind. During the early morning I netted 7 WR (including Ry Lyg), one Zonibyx, and one Charadrius falklandicus; they were weighed + banded (see banding schedule). I also netted a Cinclodes fuscus, which I released. The nets were down by 0930, + I went to the N end of the Arroyo in order to run down, taking a censuses- totals: White-rump 18,34(52); Hudsonian Godwit 1,10(11); S. Lapwing 3,8(11); Charadrius falklandicus 20,31(51); Zonibyx modestus 7,13(20) Black necked Stilt 65,78(143); Neotropic cormorant 0,2(2); YB Pintail 0,4(4); Speckled teal 0,2(2); Brown hooded gull 2,4(6); Cocoi heron 1,0(1); Maguari Stork 0,3(3); Geositta cunicularia 0,2(2); Cinclodes fuscus 2,2(4); Rufous-backed Negrito 0,1(1). Of WR banded before this morning there were 7 resightings. Also 1 Zonibyx resight, and 5 falklandicus. The BNS stilt distribution forming on the Arroyo was remarkable, with 94 of the 143 within a 300 m section.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, Pdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Oreophilus now are regular on the llanos, as well as upland feeding Zonibyx. Thinocorus continues to be abundant – over 150 in the thistle patch. 1 Tryngites also. There was a spotted nothura with half-grown chicks! 20 Vanellus hld over the llanos, Lessonia is common; there are almost as many Anthus

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medelard, 35 km S.of Ivanclo by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

20 April (cont'd) S Rhea, a flock of ~50 Sicalis luteola. I feed two swallows now; all are WR's - no cliff. anymore. (see Zonibyx sp. accnt)

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medelard, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

20 Returned to Arroyo in late afternoon and at 1752 began taking following data on RyLOO at subunit 5 (all WR sp. accnt; linear grid following data book). There is at least some vestige of a territorial spacing system remaining within the WR's here along subunits 4, 4-5, 5, in the linear grid. However the falklandicus and Zonibyx offer a much more clear cut case. (Cloud cover 90% with a moderate N wind. Temp = 12°. Stormy-looking. See WR sp. accnt) also Vanellus spp accnt.)

22 April temperature this morning at 0800 = 7°C; sun on horizon at 0821. 0% cloud cover; wind = slight from S(E). I began reading the linear grid at 0834. Grid totals: White-rump E side 12, W side 8 (20); Hudsonian godwit 2,0(2); Knots 1,0(1); Southern lapwing 0,1(1); Charadrius falklandicus 5,18(23); Zonibyx modestus 0,7(7); Black-necked Stilt 5,10(15); Maguari Stork 0,4(4); Cocoi heron 0,1(1); Speckled teal 0,13(13); Polyboroides plancus 0,2(2); Milvago chimango 0,1(1); Geositta cunicularia 0,1(1); Cinclodes fuscus 1,0(1); Coryciera yapit 0,1(1). Running down the Arroyo after the grid sample, totals were: White-rump on subunit 22,52 between subunit (74) totals; Hudsonian godwit 2,8(10); Southern lapwing 4,10(14); Golden Plover 1,0(1); Charadrius falklandicus 16,40(56); Zonibyx modestus 6,11(17); BN Stilt 9,6(15); Maguari Stork 1,2(3); Yellow Billed Pintail 0,2(2); Speckled teal 0,7(7); Anas versicolor 0,2(2); Brown-hooded gull 3,3(6); Cinclodes fuscus 0,1(1); Geositta cunicularia 1,2(3); Rufous-backed Negrito 2,4(6). Resighted 9 banded WR, 7 banded Ch.falk and 2 Zonibyx. (see WR, Zon + Ch.f. spp accnt). After running down I passed over the Llanos, seeing ~25 Zonibyx (see sp.accnt), 100+ Theristicus, 10-15 Orcophelus, and 0 Tryngites. 1023 began taking RyLOO WR following data (see WR sp accnt). The wind, which has changed to E now out of the South and strong is pushing the wind up the Arroyo, piling it up.

23 April netting on subunit 1 - put up one net by 0710. There was a minimum of 1 WR roosting nearby, as well as Ch. falklandicus. Netted 3 WR, 3 Ch.falk, and 2 Zonibyx, all of which I banded except for one Zonibyx which perched in the net (collected .135)

Journal

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland. 55 km S. of Junucho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

23 April (cont'd)

There was no wind this morning, yet when I arrived there were several streaks by sub 1 in the Arroyo which had no water — i.e. the Arroyo had dried to the point where it is reduced to a series of puddles (albeit some several hundred meters long). (see map Ch. f. + Zonib. spparent) Long stretches between 6+7 and again 7+8 are dry, although these subunits themselves have water. After setting out the grid, beginning at 0917, the starting time was somewhat later than usual, and may have contributed to my seeing some Sicalis luteola. Grid totals: White-rump 9,25(34); Hudsonian godwit 1,2(3); Southern lapwing 0,1(1); Charadrius falklandicus 6,13(19); Zonibyx modestus 3,3(6); Black-necked stilt 4,3(7); Brown-hooded gull 0,1(1); Cinclodes fuscus 0,2(2); R.B. Negrito 2,0(2); Sicalis luteola 1,13(14). Over half of the WR recorded were found on subunit 9 (21 there). Between 9 and 10 this flock continued, with a total of ~85 birds, including several bands. Running down data was lost because of a tape-recorder snafu. Total of 7 WR resightings, including RyLoo and RyLrp on their respective territories; 3 Charadrius resightings; 1 Zonibyx. See Res. chart.

24 April

1800 went out to Arroyo; temp 13°, Wind = 6 (Beaufort scale) from SSE; clouds down to 60% after running 90-100% since 1100. It had dawned calm + clear but while I was doing a bird + finishing notes a southern storm blew up, threatening rain all day. Only a few isolated showers fell. The lack of rain was apparent in the Arroyo: a large area between the curve and subunit 1, including portions of 1 are dry now. Lois left me and my newly created equipment for measuring microhabitat of shorebirds between subunits 7 and 8. I played there for approx 45 minutes, until shortly passed sunset. Took data on Ry/k Ro Loy (WR) and a Charadrius falklandicus also there

25 April

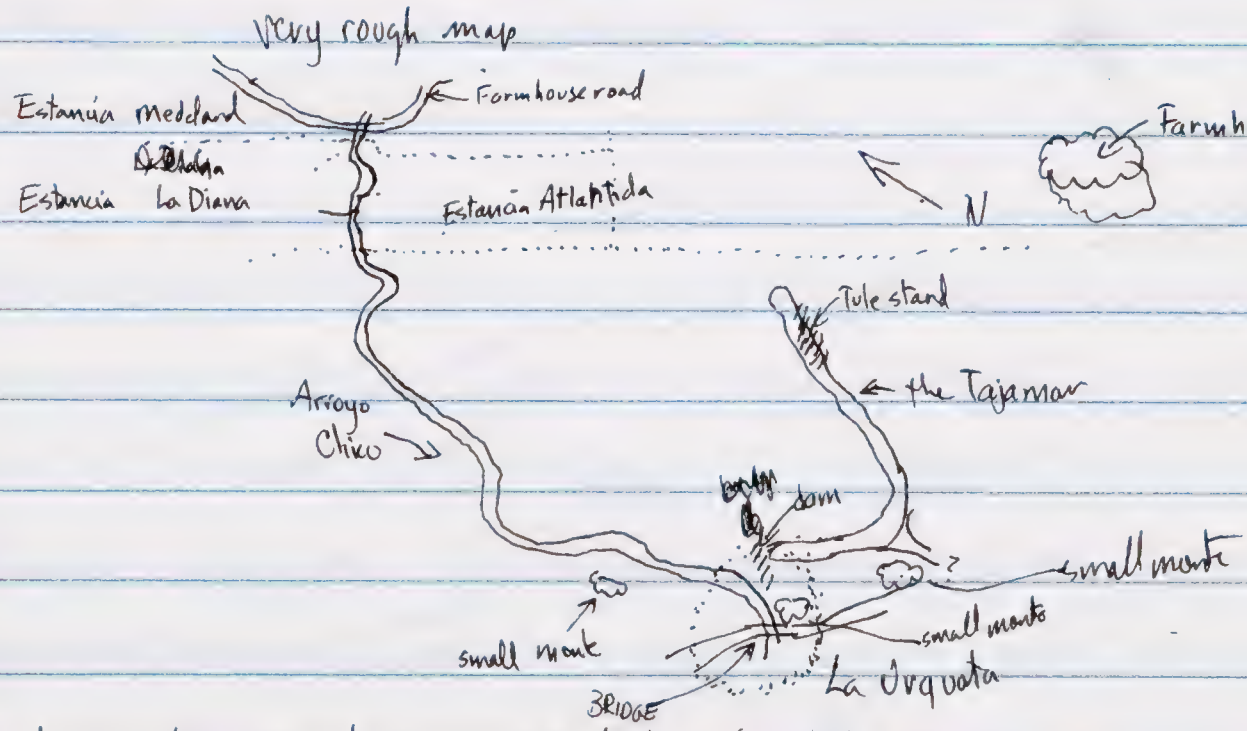
went out to Arroyo; arriving at 0815. the water level was up, but in a peculiar way. The strong S, SE wind which continued unabated through the night has apparently pushed water up the Arroyo, covering the areas in and before subunit 1 which were dry yesterday evening. However, the increased water did not reach upstream beyond just after subunit 5. on Grid 12 there is water — barely continuous + mostly the result of a dense array of cattle tracks retaining water. But Subunit 7, except for one small puddle,

Journal

25 April
cont'd

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Meddland, 35 Km S. of Tuncho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina
in subunit 3, ~~[illegible]~~ is ~~now~~ almost if not completely dry. The dry stretch continues from below 75m
7 through to #12 of subunit 8, that is 415 meters. Above 8 (8-10) there is continuous water again.
Grid totals: White-rump ~~[illegible]~~ 39,4(43); Hudsonian godwit 9,5(9); Charadrius falklandicus 11,5(16); Zonibyx
modestus 2,4(6); B. Necked Stilt 8,4(12); Maguari Stork 3,2(5); B. hooded gull 0,2(2); Cinclodes 1,0(1)
White-rump dispersion was again remarkable almost half of the total birds occurring within 50m of
subunit 9. Running down totals: White-rump 38,56(94); Hudsonian godwit 7,11(18); Greater Yellowlegs 0,1(1);
Southern lapwing 2,0(2); Charadrius falklandicus 15,37(52); Zonibyx modestus 5,15(20); Black-necked Stilt
0,2(2); Maguari Stork 1,0(1); Speckled teal 2,0(2); ~~[illegible]~~ Milvago chimango 1,1(2); Brown-hooded gull 1,4(5);
Cinclodes fuscus 3,4(7); Correndera pipit 1,0(1). After completing these surveys I continued down the Arroyo
searching for banded WR. Today I continued on past the southern border of Estancia Medland, going
as far South as a place Huici called la Urquata - the fork -, where a dam has been built and where
there is a ~~[illegible]~~ bridge over the Arroyo.

Very rough map



The Arroyo changes character beyond Meddland; in fact it begins to do so before leaving the Potrero in
which Tower Llanos lies. We have always suspected that there is something unusual about this particular
stretch of Arroyo because, though I did not realize it at the time, we put the grid on a section of Arroyo
unusual for its high density of WR. Only later in the season did any of the stretch N of the linear grid
develop heavy WR usage, and today, below the ~~[illegible]~~ Estancia Meddland bridge, I saw only one, within
200 m of the bridge. I estimate that I surveyed a minimum of 5 ~~[illegible]~~ Km of the Arroyo, and am confident
that no WR evaded my detection. There were, however, many Zonibyx and Charadrius falklandicus

JPMyers
1974

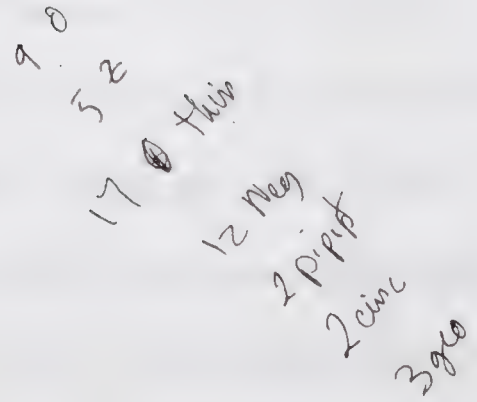
Journal

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juarucho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

25 April (cont'd)

fairly evenly dispersed along the channel (one of each sp. every 50-95m) for the first 3-4 Km. Up to this point the substrate is a sand with many old shells evident (and the banks show definite layering with one 8" thick deposit of shells about 3' from the surface). This substrate develops as you go S. from the muddier one which characterizes much but not all of the Arroyo along the lisiera grid. However, after 3-4 Km, during which the water grows wider + deeper, reaching a max. width of 15 m and depth exceeding my boots (1.5') considerably; the banks become steeper, the sand/mud border disappears, and the Arroyo edges become overgrown with thick, high (1.5') grasses. This continues beyond the point where I stopped. At this point, where a major (in comparison with the Medeland bridge) bridge crosses, it is obvious that there has been a lot of human effort put into defining the channel, shoring up the banks, + straightening it out. In the vegetation were at least two sp. of furnariids, Zonotrichia, and rhumbeous rails. Along the crest of the banks, apparently cropped short by obliquitous sheep, I saw one small (8-13 birds) flock of Orecophelos. No other shorebirds along this entire stretch. The 2 digniges from the Arroyo for a moment to comment upon one prevailing feature of the pampas in this area (in fact all of the pampas that I have seen from Bahia Blanca to Santa Fe) — the horizon is invariably broken with montes - clumps of trees varying in size from a few trees to several hundred, usually (except right near the coast, particularly to the north east of Madariaga and past Castelli) imported trees - Eucalyptus, poplar, oak - often planted around buildings but sometimes, as near La Urquesta (see map) out in the middle of fields by no buildings whatsoever. I think that the dispersion pattern of the montes - undeniably patchy and of limited area in comparison to the vast grasslands which surround them, are of more potential ecological import than as shelters for man or a relief from the visual experience of an unlimited, flat horizon. I propose that they may in time serve as 'islands' offering relative safety for nesting in comparison to the ground in the grass. The islands are also offer a very special habitat dispersion pattern to those spp. using the woodland habitat which they comprise. With respect to social systems +/or nesting dispersion, I suspect that the patchy montes may eventually lead to refuging exploitation by spp. which have been able to compress the breeding territory to the pt. where a colony develops within the monte.

Anyway... from the bridge I followed the body of water - a bajamar (water holding pond) around to the N, and then going to the end, and then followed the meander


90
52
17 thin
12 neg
2 pipe
2 circ
3 geo

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Ivanchuk by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

25 April cont'd

Jeeped NW to the Arroyo, and back. The Tajamar was full of shorebirds - 150+ WR (many territorial see app. accent; one banded Rolgg); 50+ H. godwit, many black-necked Stilts, Charadrius falklandicus and Zonibyx. Weather during the outing was blustery, with a mod ESE wind, 50-75% cloud cover alternately threatening rain + then clearing, and temperature hovering around 13°C.

26 April

0830 5°C. At 0920 I entered the Arroyo with sky 90% clear, no wind. The lack of wind, as we had yesterday, has allowed the H2O to back down, so that the area below the course S of the trainer has 1-3' of newly exposed mud and wet sand. The curve itself is essentially dry. Also dry was the entire area between the N end of 6 and about 75 m S of unit 8. By a very fortunate coincidence I found two of the birds which had been territorial in the old 8-7 stretch now in sub 6, + again territorial: they are Zonibyx Ro and Ch. falklandicus Rylo. Subunit 5 is not dry, but Rylo was with a flock between 3 and 4. (See WR, Zonibyx, Ch. falklandicus, H. godwit sp. accent). Several things appear to be happening in conjunction with the drying of the Arroyo, apart from the fact that WR's are just about to migrate: 1) space is being reduced, and concurrently territorial birds are being forced to abandon if their stretch happens to dry (e.g. Zonibyx Ro) 2) there are more birds present anyway, because surrounding areas have dried further; 3) new food is being exposed at the center of the Arroyo - the WR are using a new feeding style - deep-probing instead of search + peck.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1400 entered Tower Llanos. Moderate E wind, clouds = 60%. Watching a flock of Oreophilus and Zonibyx forage near the S gate I took feeding data and microtopographic data from Oreophilus. Within a quarter of a circle (90° arc) with a radius of 100 m were 9 Oreophilus, 5 Zon. byx, 17 Thinocorus rumicivorus, 12 Lessonia rufa, 2 Cinclodes fuscus, 3 Geositta cunicularia, and 2 Anthus correndera. The shorebirds (flock wop. were limited) to this area, whereas the passerines appeared to continue on fairly evenly, tho perhaps not the Lessonia. After taking the Oreophilus info I went on to the thistle patch of Llanos interface where the first Thinocorus appeared, + where they have been ever since, + took one set of micro-data from a ♂ Thinocorus. After this, and after satisfying myself that there were no buffies on the Llanos, I went to the Arroyo.

J P Myers
1974

Journal

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S of Junction by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

26 April 1700 returned to subunit 6 area, and found Chifalk RyLoy Zonibyx Ro; and WR's RyLoyd Rplr foraging there. The first two were on their territories, the latter foraging together. I tried to take microdata from Rplr but could not because, after having followed the procedure, selected the point to measure etc (from the car while watching the bird), I found that I could not locate with absolute certainty Rplr's exact position in the water. It, of course, flew as I floundered about if the Arroyo. So I went up to subunit 10-9 and took data from two unbanded birds.

27 April reached Arroyo predawn and had Chats up by 0720 & Sun on horizon at ~ 0830. WR arrival time uncertain, probably about 0725 Netted & WR, banded them all.

JPMyers
1979

Journal

Patagonia, Pvcias de Chubut and Rio Negro, Argentina

10 May - 27 May — see 'camp list' for description of habitats and lists of birds sited during fairly standardized (1-2 hr in time) forays at different camp sites. Also GR, Oreopholus, and Vultur spp. diurns

Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Gral. J. Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

31 May — 1615 drove from Farmhouse to Tower Llanos to N. end of Linear grid. Moderate NE wind, 98% cloud, but shallow clouds, temp ≤ 15°C. According to the Estancia residents, it has rained only twice since we departed from here in early May; once soon after we left, and then again only a few days ago. Neither rains were very substantial, they said, but the land is obviously wetter now than it was when we left: standing water by the road, thick mud in some places, + the Arroyo is flowing. It's narrowest point in Potreros 19 chico and 20 is now by linear grid subunit 4, where it is ~1/4 mi across. My route this afternoon entailed driving along Farmhouse Rd to the turnoff to Tower Llanos, S of the entrance gate, then N into Tower Llanos, over the ditch around the main thistle patch past the Tower and grids 4 and 7. Then after leaving the llanos I entered the Arroyo Chico at subunit 4, and followed it N to the end of Potrero 19 chico (i.e. the N end of the linear grid). Here I turned around (~1750 - sunset) and followed the Arroyo back to the S end of Tower Llanos (Potrero 20), and returned to the farmhouse. Spp observed: (sp., total #, # in Tower Llanos, # in Arroyo)

Maguari stork	4, 0, 2	Tringa melanoleuca	3, 0, 3
Theristicus caudatus	4, 0, 0	Gallinago	6, 6, 0
S. screamer	4, 2, 2	Thinocorus rumicivorus	175, 175, 0
Cygnus melanocoryphus	2, 0, 0	Larus dominicanus	1, 1, 0
Anas flavirostris	41, 0, 4	Zenaida auriculata	25, 0, 0
Anas georgicus	2, 0, 2	Columba picazuro	5, 0, 0
Polyborus plancus	2, 0, 0	Colaptes campestroides	3, 0, 0
Milvago chimango	5, 4, 0	Furnarius rufus	2, 0, 0
Vanellus chilensis	34, 7, 12	Geositta cunicularia	3, 3, 0
Charadrius falklandicus	64, 0, 64	Cinclodes fuscus	20, 5, 15
Zonibyx modestus	141, 132, 9	Anthus correndera	11, 3, 8
Oreopholus ruficollis	91, 79, 3		3, 3, 0

JPMyers
1974

Journal

Estancia Medelord, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prov de Bs Aires, Argentina

31 May cont'd

Pseudoleistes virescens 110,0,0

Sicalis sp. prob. luteola ✱350, 20,0

One of the highlights was the find of 3 banded Charadrius falklandicus - Lr, RyLo, and RoLy. see Ch. falklandicus, Oreopholus, Zonibyx spp accent. The decline in #'s of Anthus correndera and Lessonia rufa is remarkable since my last outing over the Llanos. Oreopholus and Zonibyx were much more common. Thinocorus appear to be holding their own.

1 June

rained most of the day, ceasing ~~xxx~~ 1400 but remaining very ✱ overcast. Strong to moderate wind persisted all day out of ~~xxx~~ NNW shifting SW in the afternoon. Sunset revealed a thin but growing line of cloud-less sky on the western horizon. 1600-1730 Lois and I walked along the southern border from camp ~~to the~~ toward the east, following the fence for ~1200m at the working pasture into a drying tule marsh via cowpaths. Behind the Estancia house (the woods around the house, composed of poplar and eucalyptus largely, is a large stretch of pampas grass on a very sandy soil. The grass has flowered, & the tassles are now beginning to fall. ~~The~~ The grass is very thick and in places impossible to penetrate. Many of the clumps are higher than my head (5'10"), but the bulk of the vegetation is about shoulder-height down. Walking through the grass you occasionally (frequently) break into little grassy ~~xxx~~ clearings, sometimes with a small patch of tule ~~xx~~ along the edge. These are invariably ✱ lower than the surrounding land, & are water filled during the spring. Just before reaching tule is a stand of Spartina, & then comes the marsh. Only after penetrating through tule to a considerable extent did we come upon any standing water. Standing half-hidden in the vegetation - either in pampas grass or tule - 'fishing' for birds proved to very effective. Species attracted in this manner are have an * in the following list:

Rhynchotus rufescens 2	Circus cinereus 1	Leptotila verreauxi 3
Nothura maculosa 5	Milvago chimango 15	Guira guira 8
Ardea cocoi 1	Polyborus plancus 7	Cinclodes fuscus 15
S. screamer 4	Zenaida auriculata 100+	Furnarius rufus 2
Anas versicolor 6	Columba picazuro 50+	✱ Phleocryptes melanops 25

J P Myers
1974

Journal

Estancia Medland 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Gral J Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

1 June (cont'd)

*Asthenes sp. ♂ (yellow spot) — Serpophaga subcristata 1 — Hymenops perspicillata 2 — Sicalis luteola

*Phacellodomus striaticollis 3 — Tachycineta leucorrha 2 — Embernagra platensis ~25

Pitangus sulphuratus 3 — Troglodytes aedon 2 — Conothraupis capensis 30

*Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris 1 — Pseudoleistes virescens 100+

*Tachuris rubrigastra 15 — Agelaius thilius 20

14Km N of Cafayate by road, Pvcia de Salta, Argentina

7 August

1130 stopped at marsh at the upper entrance into the Quebrada (Gorge) de Cafayate. high overcast with very strong wind coming up out of the Quebrada. Temperature ~50°F. At the entrance to the Quebrada, Rio Conchas is a wide, shallow river which at this time of the year has largely dried, exposing large expanse of sand (salt-covered). A few narrow shallow (<12") channels remain. Along the E side is a small cienega, a marsh bordered by pampas grass and scrub, never more than 8" deep, and covered with a very green grass which protudes about 3-4" from the water surface. Small minnows and tadpoles abound. I trodded through the marsh and sandflats for an hour looking for Phegornis - there were none. Spp present: Anas georgica, Mirvago chimango, Rallus sanguinolentus Charadrius collaris (8), Vanellus chilensis (5), Larus serranus, Anthe, Anoropsitta aymara, Pitangus sulfuratus, Hymenops perspicillata, Lessonia rufa, Muscisaxicola, Pezites militaris, Phrygilus gayi, Sicalis sp. Embernagra platensis. The representation of tyrannidae was striking considering the time of year, altitude, + paucity of other species.

Estancia Medland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

23 August

(returned to Medland yesterday evening) 0830 drove from camp out into areas where I had worked last year. Temp 12°C at that time, with a dense haze, undeterminable cloud cover, and slight SE wind. The weather was quite unusual in my experience because of the haze - despite the low temperature it lent an oppressive air to the air. The foreboding proved to be true, as by mid morning brief showers were falling, and at 1230 a violent electrical storm passed over. Today may prove to be the first day with substantial rain in some time. I am amazed by the dryness of the land - we were told so much about how miserable wet the winters are here, and how all the swamps fill then

JP Myers
1974

Journal

Estancia Medelland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia. de Bs. Aires, Argentina etc. This morning many of the swamps are dry. For example, Farmhouse puddle (see map on following page) is bone dry - it is now crossed by a dirt road running across the middle of old grid 9. La cuava swamp is almost dry. But here one notes a difference between the dryness of April - May and that of August: the wide, dark mud borders are not caked as they were several months ago. I sink in an inch or so as I walk. None of the roadside areas have any water now. Arroyo Chico, which I reached via the usual route (see map - farmhouse rd → gate A → tower Llanos, etc), however, had a pronounced current, and although it was not very wide, more water was flowing today than I have seen since early April. Tower Llanos swamp has water equivalent to 31 March levels. There, too, a difference between the state of the border mud now + in April is discernible. Tower Llanos itself is not very different than it was - short grass, no standing water. the grass appears to have been heavily cropped, and the field is extraordinarily covered with cow + sheep droppings. Almost all standing thistles + other vegetation of noticable height has been knocked down. This is particularly apparent along the raised edges of the arroyo. Much of the area which during last summer had ceased to be 'short-grass', has now regained that status. Across the Arroyo (W), unfortunately, is being plowed for corn. I am told that part of Tower Llanos will be also. From Tower Llanos I continued up the Arroyo N, making necessary detours for gates as can be seen on the map. The impressive fact about the upland habitat here now is that there is so much that I can now call short-grass, which, as areas in Tower Llanos, had grown-up during last summer. The cows have been busy. Many of the fields are turning green again. However, no Solanum has started to leaf, nor has the vegetation in swamps (i.e. Totora) begun to regenerate.

23 August (cont'd)

BIRDS: in general, they are extremely active, most noticably brighter than last fall, and most engaged in displays, territorial singing, etc. see annotated list at the end of today's entry. Shorebirds are here - especially upland S.A. species. Flocks of Oreopholus and Zonibyx abound. A few Thinocorus rumicivorus flocks are flying about. Charadrius falklandicus also present. Among N.A. species I found: C. bairdii, C. fuscicollis, C. melanotos, Tringa flavipes, Pluvialis dominicus. Gallinago also present. What was impressive about shorebirds today was the heavy use of upland habitat. Or perhaps

JP Myers
1974

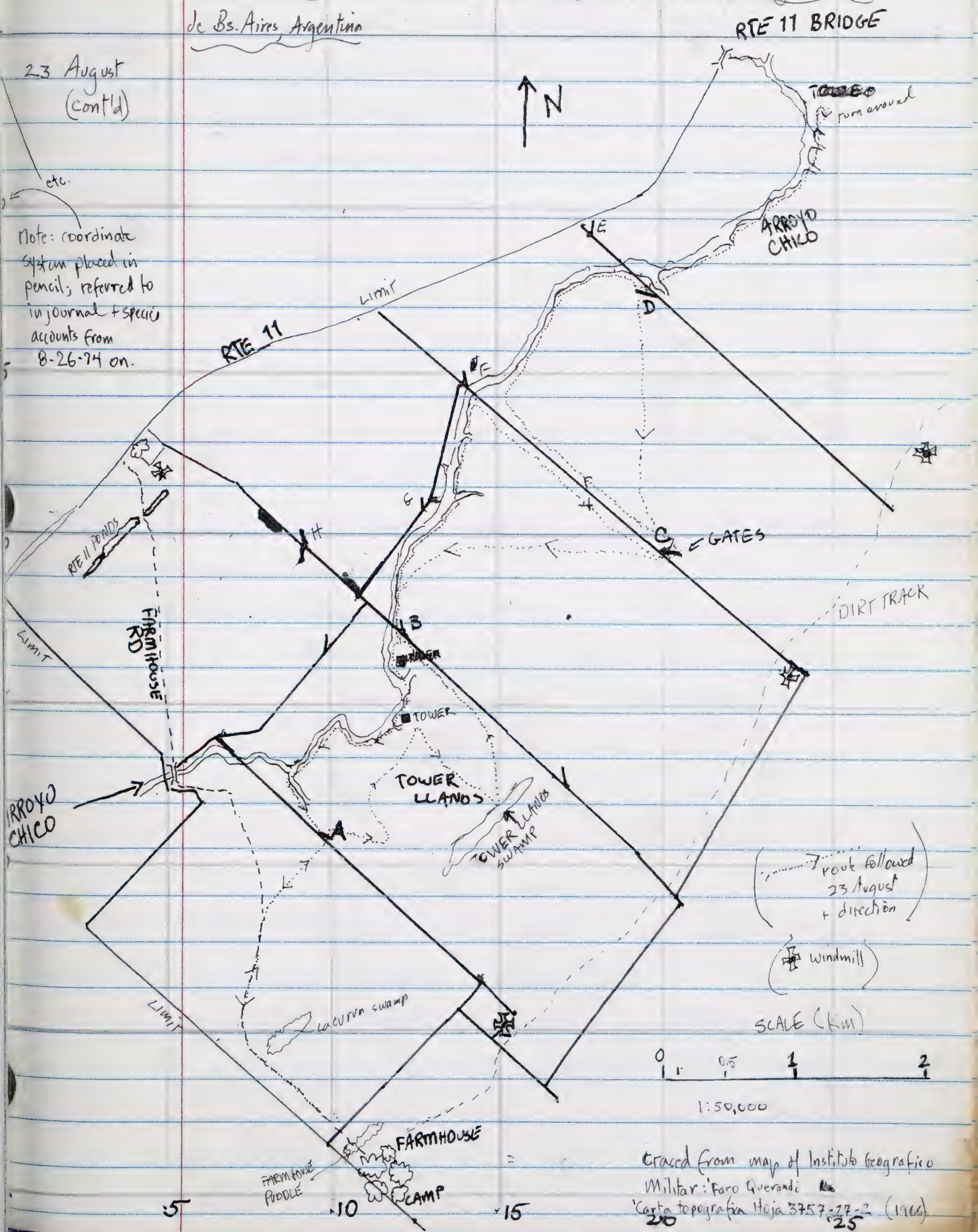
Journal

Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

23 August (cont'd)

etc.

Note: coordinate system placed in pencil; referred to in journal + special accounts from 8-26-74 on.



traced from map of Instituto Geografico Militar: Faro Querandi
Carta topografica Hoja 3757-27-2 (1966)

JP Myers
1974

JOURNAL

23 August (cont'd)

Estancia Medland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Villarriaga, Provincia de Bs Aires, Argentina

it would be more accurate to emphasize the relative emptiness of the swamps. See spp accounts and the following annotated list

Usual shorebird habitat at Medland:

Sp	Swamps + Shores (Arroyo)	Upland
Shorebirds	Calidris melanotos (3 - Arroyo)	→ C. bairdii 15
	C. fuscicollis 31 Arroyo	* Gallinago 8
	C. bairdii (81 Arroyo) ←	Oreopholus 200+
	Himantopus h. (Arroyo, swamp)	Zonibyx 200+
	Hudsonian godwit (1 Arroyo)	* Charadrius falklandicus 8
	Tringa flavipes (1 Arroyo)	Pluvialis dominica 8
	Charadrius falklandicus (30, Arroyo)	Vanellus
	Zonibyx modestus (2 arroyo) ←	Thinocorus rumicivors 100
	Vanellus ←	
Non shorebirds	Chauna torquata ← arroyo →	Chauna torquata
	Cinclodes fuscus ← arroyo - swamp	Rhea americana
	Lessonia rufa arroyo	Cinclodes fuscus
	Spinus magellanicus arroyo	Geositta
	Anas sibilatrix swamp	Lessonia rufa
	Anas arroyo swamp	Spinus magellanicus
	Agelaius thilius swamp	Sicalis flaveola
	Zonotrichia swamp	Pseudoleistes virescens
	Phleocryptes swamp	Zonotrichia
	Molothrus swamp	Milvago chimango
		Polyborus plancus
		Colaptes campestroides
		Anthus correndera

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35 Km S of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

23 August (cont'd)

total list of today's birds annoted: singing (S), displaying (D), flocking (F), Arroyo (A), upland (short grass (U), tall grass or spartina (T), woods (W) around estancia swamp (P) calling (C)

Rhea americana 20 F, U, T

Nothura maculosa T

Rhyncotus rufescens S, T

Eurenura maguari A (Theristes caudatus C)

Chauna torquata A, U, C

Anas flavirostris A, W, S, C

Anas georgica A, F, C

Anas sibilatrix P, F, C

Mitrago chiwango C, D, F, A, U, T, W

Polyboros plancus C, D, U, W

Vanellus chilensis D, F, A, U, T, C

Charadrius falklandicus A, U, D, F, C

Pluvialis dominicus U, F C

Zonibyx modestus D, A, U, F, C

Oreopholus rufiollis U, F C

Calidris bairdii A, U, F, C

C. fuscicollis A, F, C

C melanotos A, F

Gallinago gallinago U, F, C

Tringa flaripes A

Himantopus h. A, P, C

Limosa haemastica A

Thinocorus rumicivorus U, F

Larus maculipennis D, F, A, U, P, C

Columba picazuro D, U (flying), T, W, C

Zenaida auriculata F, U

Leptotila verreauxi D, W, C

Guira guira D, F, W, C

Speotyto cunicularia U

Chrysoptila melanolaima W C

Colaptes campestroides F, U, C

Cocsitta cunicularia U, A

Cinclodes fuscus U, A, F

Furnarius rufus S, D, U, W, C building

Phleocryptes C, P

Pitangus sulfuratus D, T, W, C

Lessonia rufa F, A, U

Hymenops perspicillatus T, P

Phytoma rutila W

Atticora cyanoleuca A

Tachycineta leucorrha D, F, U, W, C

Troglodytes aedon S, D, W

Turdus rufiventris S, W

Anthus correndera S, D, U, T

Pseudoleistes virescens D, F, U, T, W, C

Pezites defilippi P

Agelaius thilius D, F, T, W, C

Molothrus bonariensis F, P

Spinus magellanicus S, D, F, A, U, W, C

Sicalis flaveola F, A, U

Zonotrichia S, T, W, P, C

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Estancia Medeland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

23 August cont'd

Evening - I noted that this morning I saw that they were plowing the fields to the W of Tower Llanos across the Arroyo. Tonight I learned that they are to plow Tower Llanos itself!!! What a disaster. Not only does this destroy the best buffie habitat on the Estancia and the usefulness of the tower, but it also makes the linear grid inaccessible. I did learn that it will be the first time that T.L. has been plowed, something I suspected strongly anyway. An important question about the effect of agriculture is raised: if ~~[illegible]~~, does the short-grass community reappear in time, and if so, how long? What does this imply about the effect of agriculture on buffie populations, etc? [Learned that 5 Felis colocolo (sp?) - the gato de los pajonales - were caught in the traps

Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 2 Km N of Mar Chiquita by road, Ptdo de Mar Chiquita, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

24 August

arrived at the end of the road at 10 AM. Cloud cover = 20%, slight S wind, warming after a temp. of 3°C at dawn at Medeland. The water level here as in the laguna is low, reading 1 unit below Red 2 on the water gauge out past the mouth. There is a small (5'-10') border of slimy, oozy mud between open water and the vegetation. There are large expanses of water 1"-2" deep. Our stakes from 2 April remain (see journal), but there is no exposed mud by them. The mud flat which branches off of the laguna near the 'lesser channel' (see map, journal p66) also has a narrow mud border, but is otherwise solid water. Skimmer island is covered. However, birds are perched there, and many sp are out toward the middle of the laguna obviously standing on a shallow bottom.

Spp present:

shorebirds: Vanellus chilensis; Charadrius falklandicus 25; Cadidris fuscicollis 30; Calidris bairdii 10; Calidris canutus 20 (flying by); Limosa haemastica 10; Micropalama himantopus 26; Himantopus himantopus 30; Tringa flavipes 2

Others: Coscoroba swan; Podilymbus podiceps black-necked swan; Netta peposaca; Anas georgica; Phalacrocorax olivaceus

Cocoi heron; Common egret; Snowy egret; Fulica; Rallus sanguinolentus; Larus maculipennis

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Mouth of Canal 7 into Laguna Mar Chiquita, 21 Km N of Mar Chiquita, Pvincia de Bs Aires Arg

24 August (cont'd)

Larus dominicanus — Agelaius thilius
Circus buffoni — Pseudoleistes virescens
Cinclodes fuscus — Zonotrichia
Phleocryptes — Embernagra
Asthenes sp.

Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pt de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

25 August

(morning - see camplist p 19) 1530 drove w/cois NE from the Farmhouse camp out past the first two windmills (see map journal Aug 23). Weather 13°C, N wind (slight) and total overcast. Vegetation out in this direction from camp trampled and only beginning to show green. Sorghum not yet growing. Beginning approximately 1500m SW of the second windmill, however, and running beyond the point where we were stopped by impassable conditions, is water!! Beautiful pectoral and Gallinago habitat - a filled drainage area varying between 100% surface water, an intermediate state with grass emerging out of the water and occasional clumps of dirt, and grassy areas out of the water but obviously saturated. 75 x 30m → total 2 Km long x 40m. Snipe were common, with several displaying (see sp. accnt) and others moving in groups of 2-4. Anas flavirostris were in the water, and a flock of pectorals came by near the end (see sp. accnt). I suspect that this area is so wet because it is a shallow but extensive hollow with a large drainage area. Unusual bird for Medaland: Xolmis dominica.

26 August

Dawn cloudy, 9°C at 630. Left camp at 0730 and followed route taken 8-23, as far as the Rte 11 bridge (see 8-23 map). Then crossed Arroyo Chico, and went through gates E, F, G, and H, and returned to camp via farmhouse road. Drizzled several times for a short period. Moderate N wind developed through the morning. 100% clouds throughout, sometimes quite low. As I returned along Farmhouse Road, it was obvious that the plowing of Tower Hanos had started. Anyway. Thinocorus almost gone. Zonibyx still heavy in upland. Oreopholus very common, 300-400 easily. Some golden. ~15 Baird's upland, a few along the Arroyo, >10 WR in Arroyo. Ch. falklandicus present in both habitats, but in neither abundant. See spp. accounts.

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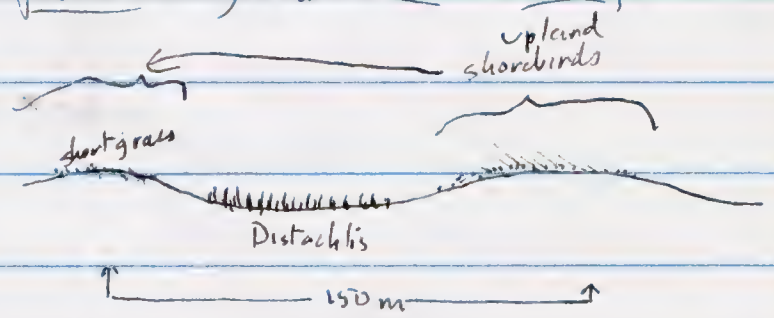
Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juan Cno by road, Ptdo de Maipu, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

26 August (cont'd)

traveling along the fence from Arroyo Chico SE to Gate 8 C (see map) I noticed (now that the vegetation is low) that ~~there grass~~ there is a slight roll to the land here. It is no more than 1-2 m variation with a periodicity of ~ 1 cycle / 150 m. But it creates (or is correlated with) regular variation in grass type. In the bottomlands are a thicker grass (Distachlis) whereas on top is a bermuda-type contaminated with dead weeds. The shorebirds (save Vanellus) are exclusively in the upper areas on the short grass. This includes Orcopholos, Zonibyx, Charadrius falklandicus, actl (alidris bairdii, and Gallinago gallinago. Vanellus is everywhere.



cross section of topography

27 August

arrived at subunit 10 of linear grid 0545 for banding. en route between subunits 7+8 I spot-lighted a falklandicus + netted w/ butterfly net. banded (it turned out to be bumpy ♀ - see sp. accnt) this morning I used a new pair of bleitz 7x60 terylene nets which were DISASTERS - the two ends are of different widths (both ≤5') and narrower than the center. The netting is unevenly distributed along the length, and tied in place that way. Anyway... pegs didn't appear until 0650, and then <10. Netted 0. By coordinate system (see map 23 August) the netting site was (13,24) and the falklandicus were picked up in (13,20). If that isn't science..... Collected 2 we returning along Arroyo in (11,17) Weather cool (12°C), no wind, 100% overcast recovering from a thick all night fog.

during mid morning and early afternoon we drove along the route taken 8-26 to the NE from the Fauthoux camp. We went as far as (28,23) [see grid on 8-23 map], and parked there as I walked 200 m NW through a marsh. During the outing it began to rain lightly but steadily, a wind developing out of the south and the cloud cover lowering considerably. The swamp proved to be extensive with alternation between flooded grass lands (more treacherous + given an extraordinary amount of micro-relief by livestock grazing) with some Solanum, partially flooded but mostly just muddy Spartina, and full-fledged ~~lake~~ lake swamps - One Chauna torquata nest

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27 August (cont'd)

Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Junction by road, Partido de Medanigo, Provincia Bs. Aires, Arg. with 3 eggs. A few spp of shorebird (see list below). Many duck keys birds in the specimen and fish.

	Polyborus plancus	Furnarius rufus
Rhea americana	Milvago chimango	Phleocryptes
Rhynchotus rufescens	Rostrates sociabilis	Spartanoica maluroides
Nothura maculosa	Rallus sanguinolentus	Cistothorus platensis
Ardea cocoi	Vanellus chilensis	Anthus correndera
Euxenura magnari	Haimantopus himantopus	Agelaius thilius
Chauna torquata nest 3 eggs	Calidris bairdii (2)	Pseudoseisura viresceus
Anas georgica	Calidris melanotos (1)	Molothrus
Anas versicolor	Tringa flavipes	Pitangus sulfuratus
Anas flavirostris	Tringa melanoleuca	Xolmis dominicana
Anas sibilatrix	Gallinago gallinago	Machetornis rixosa
	Larus maculipennis	Hymenops perspicillata (♂+♀)
	Zenaida auriculata	Tachuris rubrigastris
	Columba picazuro	Tachycineta leucorrha
	Speotyto cunicularia	Zonotrichia capensis
	Cinclodes fuscus	Sicalis flaveola

28 August sun on horizon 0720 temp = 1.5°C, no wind, 0% clouds. OBs began walking toward La Orqueta, which lies just SW of the border of Medaland in Estancia La Atlantida [coordinate (3,3)]. My path was fairly direct from the Estancia house, although I was briefly misled by a batch of tola that I took to be the beginning of the Orqueta swamp. Vegetation was typical of that found across the fence in Medaland: a stretch of 6" grass on slightly rolling land which gives way to Distachis and then Spartina. At the lowest spots there is some Solanum malacoxylon, and also tola. Several small (20×20) patches of bare mud. Continuing west the swampy area gives way to extensive 2"-4" high grass fields, heavily grazed and spotted with droppings. The area of interest lies in the midst of one such field, and is a long, winding,

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28 August (cont'd)

Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

30 m wide depression extending ~~1500~~ 1500 m to the S and beginning just S of the Medaland border. It is dammed at the S end, and which may explain in part why it contains so have water. Most of it is now saturated mud, with a few patches of Tule and/or Solanum, but towards the S end there is extensive water. Many shorebirds were present (see list below). I was accosted there by a peon, to whom I explained what I was doing (he was from Atlantida), and he had obviously heard of me.

Birds seen (~~added~~ * if at the ~~Arroyo~~ Orquesta) (including those noted leaving or entering the monte)

Rhea americana
Rhynchotus rufescens
Nothura maculosa
Ardea cocoi
Euryanura maguari
Chauna torquata *
Anas georgica *
Anas flavirostris *
Dolichonyx oryzivorus
Milvago chimango
Elania
Vanellus chilensis *
Charadrius falklandicus * ssp sp. accent.
Charadrius semipalmatus *
Zonibyx modestus *
Calidris bairdii *
C. fuscicollis *
C. melanotos *
Tringa flavipes *
Himantopus himantopus *
Limosa haemastica *
Larus maculipennis *
Larus dominicana
Recurvirostra andina
Columba picazuro
Lophilia verreauxi
Asthenes hudsoni
Phleocrypta *
Asthenes sp
Furnarius rufus
Cinclodes fuscus
Anumbius anumbi
Pitangus sulfuratus
Serpophaga subcristata
Hymenops perspicillata
Tachycineta leucorrhoa
Troglodytes aedon
Cistothorus platensis
Anthus correndera
Molothrus rufoaxillaris *
Agelaius thilius *
Pseudoleistes virescens
Todidae
Poliolptila dumicola
Zonotrichia capensis
Embernagra platensis
Sicalis flaveola
Spinus magellanicus

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Journal

Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prvia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

30 August

Yesterday we first gave to the ranch headquarters of La Atlantida in order to obtain permision to visit La Orqueta periodically + to net. The visit was singularly unsuccessful, a result of the listlessness of the mayordomo's (Sr. Irozobal) wife, and the fact that he wasn't there. I talked with Don Juan Arbelaiz during the evening, and he suggested that I go to Estancia Los Medanos, a few Km further to the south, and talk with their mayordomo, Sr. Iraizos. (curious pair of names, no?) This suggestion is not as curious as it might appear: both ranches are owned by the Santamarina family, and Los Medanos is ranked higher. Also, Carlos Santamarina lives there. So apparently they can force decisions upon Irozobal. And, says D.J., the Medanos people are good amigos. So this morning we went. Both Iraizos and Irozobal were there, and despite the obvious awkwardness of the situation (me circumventing one by talking to the other) we received permission for assess. tolchujah. 1600 I drove out to the nearest spot on Medaland to La Orqueta, climbed the fence, + walked to the S end of the water holding pond. This covers a distance of 1.5 Km. Wind was light and from the SW Cloud cover = 100% with heavy cumulus appearing on the horizon. Slight intermittent rain. Temp = 9°C. The area is only slightly different from 28 August - a slight recession of the water apparent in a broad mud flat which is now a bit more exposed. Several flocks of shorebirds with the dominant sp. being bairdii. Shorebirds present: Vanellus chilensis (5-10), Charadrius falklandicus 35 Zonibyx modestus* 40, Calidris bairdii* 70-80, Calidris fuscicollis* 10, Limosa haemastica 5, Himantopus himantopus 15. See spp account of those with asterisk. Also note that today I began a 'Flock' acount'

31 August

rose at 0400 in order to band, but -3°C and a wind convinced that it wasn't going to be profitable. Dawn 0720. 0830 went to Tejero Llanos area of Arroyo Chico. Cloudcover = 10%. There was ice at that hour along the edges of the Arroyo in places protected from the current, particularly the little 'ponds' left in cattle tracks, favorite AK foraging depressions. Many flocks of Zenaida flying S or SE. Shorebirds in, under along the Arroyo, and

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Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

31 August (cont'd)

in the surrounding short-grass uplands were sparse but present. Plowing of Tower Llanos is almost complete; I pulled the stakes off fields 10 and 4 just before he plowed the under. Went as far north as (13,24)
Shorebirds seen: Vanellus chilensis, Charadrius falklandicus, Zonibyx modestus, Oreopholus ruficollis, Calidris bairdii (collected one, 149), Calidris fuscicollis, Calidris melanotos (collected one, 150), Himantopus himantopus. Returned to camp 1200.
See p accounts. Species using recently plowed field: Vanellus, Zonibyx, Larus maculipennis, Cinclodes fuscus, Pitangus sulfuratus, Anthus correndera, Molothrus.
Observations of white-rumps and baird's today revealed no territories, indeed very little aggression (see opp accounts). I know that WR have been using the (11,17) region of Arroyo Chico now for at least a week. Therefore either my hypothesized model of WR territory formation and hypotheses predicting their formation are wrong, or there are limitations to be placed upon the terms for places of their appropriateness. I suspect the latter. In particular, I suspect that migratory behavior may conflict with the hypothesized tendency to first limit one's foraging efforts in space. This is most simply conceived in terms of some phenomena related to migratory flocking → individuals more more. Off on a wild recin → there must be an annual cycle in the amplitude of activity cycles, or perhaps in the probabilities to move. Actually, this is what I expected, for territories not to develop until the population demonstrated some stability - but how much is necessary. And what role do the territorial individuals play in stabilizing the population. Anyway, if individuals move more, they will be less likely to engage in space-specific behavior. Perhaps migration entails an exaggerated increase in tendency to move plus compass control of movement (+ annual seasonal variation therein). whoopee. Another bit of speculation: given the action of weather + livestock on dead weeds - i.e. they are knocked down & covered by extensive fields of short-gray physiognomy - as the winter proceeds new areas for foraging shorebirds in the upland areas must open up continuously.

1 September

Walked along Arroyo Chico. During the morning I drove out along Arroyo Chico to (15,26). Weather is quite similar to that we have been experiencing for several days now. -1°C at dawn, 0% clouds and a slight breeze. By 1000 a wind picks up and clouds begin to pass rapidly over from the south and south west. Most of these are inconsequential - puffy cumulus whose shadow remains over me less than 3 or 4 minutes. Intermittently however, especially late morning →

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Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Tuancho by road, Ptdo de Maciariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1 September (cont'd)

mid afternoon- some produce short squalls with increased wind velocity and hard, driving rain. The squalls are very locally: what I do or don't experience in the Arroyo, for e.g. at (15,26) is not necessarily what is happening at the farmhouse, ~6 km away at (15,0). And it is obviously not the same as that occurring along the coast: it appears as if the coastal strip receives many more and more intense squalls than even we at Medaland do. This morning the squalls gained a new dimension - snow - which fell repeatedly but without lasting effect at the farmhouse mostly. At (15,26) however, there was little rain, and no snow. By evening - just before an 1830 sunset, the sky was essentially cleared - occasional remnants of the clouds remain along the horizon, but these appear to dissapate during the night, till usually at dawn the sky is 0% clouds. Last night, however, there were two brief periods of gentle rain (even tho' the horizon was clear at dawn). The weather patterns just described are very reminiscent of those we experienced last November and early December. I should mention that total precipitation is rarely more than a few mm. per day under these conditions. This morning I drove along the Arroyo out to 15,26 in order to watch interactions with/in a baird ii - fuscicollis flock that has been foraging in that vicinity for several days. The wind was such that along this particular stretch of arroyo, its direction was ⊥ to that of the direction of water flow. This produced a local piling effect of the water along the NE bank, and appeared to clear water away from the SW side. The flock of peeps were distributed along the SW side, with a few individuals infrequently flying over to the other side. This morning there is ice along the sides of the Arroyo (temp went down to -1° very early last evening and remained there), in the vicinity of the tower, in sheltered stretches (e.g. (10,14)), ice extends from one side to the other - a "solid" sheet. Here at 15,26 the ice is limited to the edges of the water, particularly the water trapped in cow hoof prints - i.e. the favorite foraging depressions of WR's. The total flock was ~40 birds this morning. See spp. accounts of baird's + WR. Increased aggression within the flock. Shorebird species: Vanellus, Zonibyx, Oreopholus, Ch. falklandicus, Tringa sp., Calidris baird ii + fuscicollis, Limosa haem., Himantopus, a few Thinocorus. Dr Bucher Tower Llanos y alrededores but found no bustards nor any Pluvialis. One cinereous harrier low over the Arroyo spooked the flock of peeps.

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Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Maharagua, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

2 September

dawn at 0710. 0°C. another blustery day indistinguishable from Medaland several. Went out into the Arroyo again to observe WR flocks and take 'site tenacity' and microhabitat data. Also revisited what is left of Tower Llanos, and went into Tower Llanos swamp. By 0830 temperature was up to 5°C, and the cloud cover had increased from 0→5%, with a moderate SW wind. In the Llanos I found a patch of almost pure tuffy habitat at (14,8) ~100 x 200 m in dimensions. 3 golden plovers flying over. Nothing else but a few Zonibyx by the gate at (9,10). There were no Oreopholos in the Llanos, and surprisingly few elsewhere in appropriate habitat. Tower Llanos swamp was devoid of any peeps, populated only by a few Cinclodes fuscus, 3 Himantopus, and several Larus maculipennis. No WR bill prints along the edge, either. May be used as a Larus roosting area. Drove along Arroyo as far N as (15,26), stopping to observe in (11,12) on the way. 50+ peeps at (15,26) - aggressions greatly increased (see sp. accts). Came back to 15,26 at 1630 in order to grid. The other effects of a continuous SW wind are obvious, salt water has piled up from Mar Chiquita (the large body of water to the south into which A. Chico flows) and increased the water level. Very noticable all along the Arroyo. At (15,26) the bird has increased by several inches, causing this morning's WR habitat to disappear.

3 September

went to Mar del Plata. In today's La Nacion there is a short article about the drought being suffered by southern BA province (i.e. here) this winter. Apparently it is more pronounced near Bahia Blanca - where cattle are dying. 4 months without significant rain

4 September

1400
~~0900~~ drove from camp to the (0,18) area. Route taken passed along Farmhouse road to the Arroyo Chico bridge, NE to (8,16), NW to (3,20) and then SW to (0,18). Returned along the fence to the bridge and then back to the farmhouse. I should mention that along on the way out we walked from (3,7) to the Orqueta area in order to check for peeps + the possibilities for banding demonstration Am. Weather through the afternoon was warm (15°-17°C), clear (0% clouds) and windy (strong SW wind). Thus it appears that the last several days weather pattern may be breaking with warmer temp's and no squalls. Anyway, the Orqueta had dried somewhat since my last visit

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Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

4 September (cont'd)

(see journal 30 August). But there are still extensive stretches of mud and a flock of assorted shorebirds numbering 100+. Among these, Calidris fairdii are most numerous, with 60+ foraging on a mosaic of mud and water. C. fuscicollis are also present; perhaps 40. Also Charadrius falklandicus (25), Zonibyx modestus (5) and Vanellus (15). If the weather allows I will band there tomorrow morning. During the rest of the afternoon (until 1730) I was in upland habitat, much of it short grass, looking for Tryngites. Much of that time was in one location in (0,18), ~150 m from the main road perched on a slight rise in the midst of a field which 11 months ago teemed with Tryngites. Today I saw only one possible (but not confirmed) buffie. The field did have 100+ Orcophalus foraging upon it, as well as 6 Pluvialis dominica (see opp. accts). Today the vegetation was typical of short-grass habitat at this time of the year, at least those short-grass fields which through the season become ragged with thistle, Juncus and other weeds. Now they are almost back to their short-grass state, a few standing thistles remain, excreta and dead weeds sprout sparsely over the field. Vegetation extends densely less than 1" above ground surface. Livestock droppings are everywhere, and sheep were grazing in this section. The other species common with the shorebirds were Larus maculipennis, Mimus triurus, Molothrus + Pseudoleistes. However A Molita (armadillo) was feeding near the car. Many Anthus correndera

5 September

banded at La Orquesta this morning [(2,3) on coordinate system]. Arrived there at 0505 with temp = 2°C, no wind, no clouds. By dawn (0705) there were patches of frost. Heard first fuscicollis 0620, although from 0505 on I heard infrequent Charadrius falklandicus, Zonibyx modestus, Calidris bairdii and Vanellus. At first light I realized that I had placed the nets incorrectly: they were ~100 m 'upstream' from the heaviest zone of pipp foraging. We therefore walked down past this area and back up, trying to hear the pipps in front of us. Apparently light levels were by then a little too high. Results: 3 C. fuscicollis, 2 Ch. falklandicus, 4 Zonibyx. See banding schedule. Nothura maculosa singing (like a ruminous pigmyowl: ------) this morning for the first time this year. (The Rhynchotus have been calling since before we arrived.)

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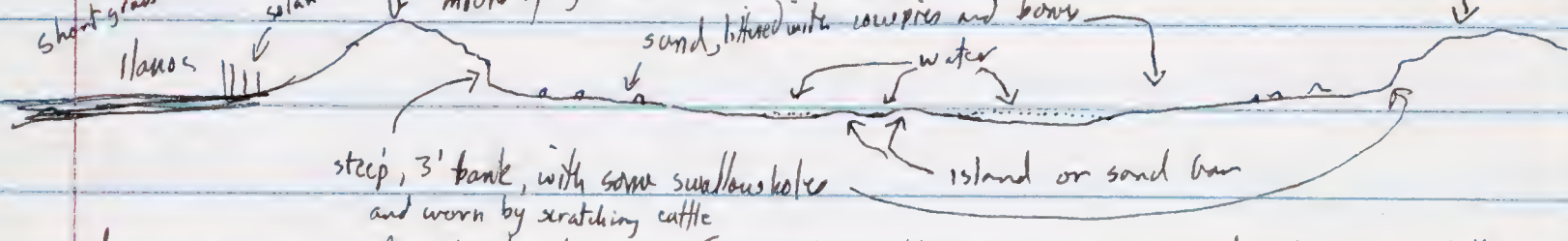
Estancia Midaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

5 September (Cont'd)

1630 arrived at the curve below the tower on Arroyo Chico (subunit 1"; (10,13).) Remained until 1815 observing a group of shorebirds composed of Charadrius falklandicus, Zonibyx modestus, Calidris bairdii, and Calidris fuscicollis. Although there have been shorebirds at this point on the Arroyo during previous visits this spring, until today the dominant species - aside from plovers, peeps and me, - has been Larus maculipennis resting between bouts of following the plow which is destroying Tower Hanos. This afternoon there were more (or no more than 6 or 7 flying over) as the plow hasn't been used for several days. So this afternoon the shorebirds were there. And the impressive thing about them was the incredible frequency of aggression. Few minutes passed without hearing some aggressive call, particularly by territorial Zonibyx and falklandicus. For a short period it looked as if bairdii might also be territorial, but it wasn't, nor was fuscicollis. (see supplements.) The Arroyo here is not atypical of its relatively high through the Estancia. A cross-section would look:


short grass
Hanos
solanum
mound of grass covered dirt, pitted with Vizcacha holes
sand, littered with cowpies and bones
water
steep, 3' bank, with some swallows holes and worn by scratching cattle
island or sand bar

the mounds along the bank are ~2m above the lowest point in the Arroyo. Width of the arroyo from steep bank → steep bank ~60m. Water width varies, now is ~10m. Depth where the birds were this afternoon were ~8 cm at deepest. Depending upon time of day and wind direction, there is a strip of wet, exposed mud along the border of the water, usually about 0.5 - 1m wide. Wind this afternoon was strong and due South. 0% clouds Temperature rose to 12° C.

6 September

drove to (10,13) area of Arroyo Chico, arriving 0505 AM. Placed three nets, finishing 0610, ~15 min after horizon began to increase in light level. temp 0430 = 3°. No wind. No clouds Local frosts formed by dawn. (sun on horizon at 0703.) Although Vanellus were in Arroyo, as usual, when I came in before 0500, no small shorebirds were present. Apparently nothing roosted at the curve last night. First falklandicus flew in from East at ~630. first bairdii flew by 640. WR appeared in small numbers shortly afterward. Zonibyx came in before bairdii. 2 Asio flammeus glided low over the foraging area not long after falklandicus

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6 September (cont'd)

(10,13) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

began feeding. I tried to chase the small birds into the nets but found that they were flattening away beneath the nets (no evasive action apparent), which were ~2'-3' off the water at the most. Banded.. 3 Zonibyx modestus, 2 Charadrius falklandicus, 1 Calidris fuscicollis, 1 Himantopus h. see banding schedule. 2 Pluvialis d. almost flew into the nets. Before taking the nets down I walked ~500 m downstream on the other side of the arroyo, in order to see how much unplowed area remained: there is a patch easily 200 m across in the (8-9,13) area. Much of it looks like potential Tryngites habitat. Only shorebirds there today were Vanellus. Gallinago, Speotyto, Sicalis also present. Chauna in the nearby arroyo. Several spots which may suit melanotos there also, grass and Solanum filled dips which with water would be nice pectoral puddles.

(15,27) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

After banding drove upstream to new grid site (Grid 11) placed along the Arroyo the afternoon of 2 September. Saw at (15,27) 4 Zonibyx (banded that morning) in (13,21), ~2 Km upstream from banding site and Blr Chf. En route. Also noticed bairdii flying between Arroyo and uplands, feeding in both places. After dawn the sky clouded over briefly until almost 70% cover, but by 1000 decreased to <5%. At Grid 11 I took dispersion data from 0930-01030, and during part of the first half hour recorded flocks of Zenaida passing overhead. See flock accent, grid data book, WR + baird spp. accents. Behind me during this period of observation, i.e. in the fields to the W in 15,27) were 2 Pluvialis dom., 5 Orcophalus, several Vanellus. Grid totals: [sp., ~~total~~ average (range) ~~total~~ average] Calidris fuscicollis 2 (0-5) 59; Calidris bairdii 0.9 (0-2) 26.9; Charadrius falklandicus 0.1 (0-1) 3.

30 grid readings at 2 min intervals (most of them).

(10,13) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1630 - drove out again to the (10,13) area of Arroyo Chico. A very strong NE wind has picked up and is changing water distribution along the Arroyo. 0° cloud. At (9,13) several of the islands in the arroyo here (islands 1-2 m long, ≤1 m across) are flooded. Because of the Arroyo configuration here, a NE wind piles up water in this stretch, as it comes in both down and upstream (the Arroyo in several hundred meters makes a turn more acute than 90°. Many of the shorebirds here yesterday and this morning are gone. Remaining are several Ch. falklandicus, 2 bairdii, Vanellus, and incl. Rpiak + Rred (1974)

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6 September (cont'd)

(10,13) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

an intermittent Zonibyx[Rg] ft (11, 16), i.e. at the N end of the long straight stretch which terminates at (10,13) & (11,16) lying 200 m N of the tower) there was a flock of 7 bairdii in an area where they had not been previously. How water has been removed from the Arroyo, and as a result new foraging areas are exposed.

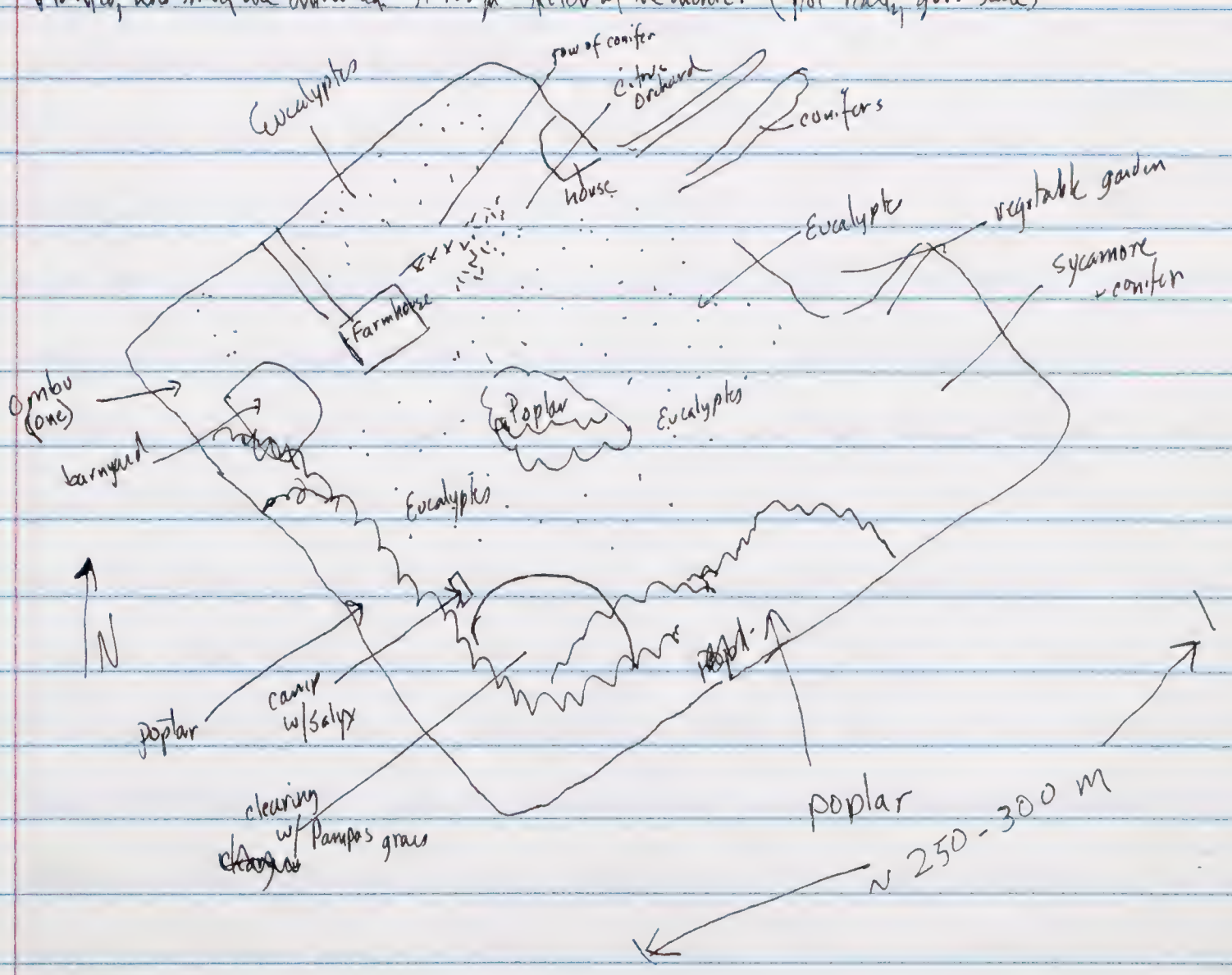
Tower Llanos, Estancia Medaland 35 Km S. of Juancho by road Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1705 - driving SE from (12,15). grasslands (or what remains unplowed) turning brown, probably from lack of rain. Very few birds present on Tower Llanos, the only shorebirds present being Vanellus - sparse + in pairs. Cinclodes fuscus, Anthus correndera (+ probably furcatus) Sicalis luteola, 3 Rhea americana

(10-11, 0-1) Farmhouse Monte, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

7 September

Surveyed the camp monte this morning from 0815 - 1030. Strong N-NE wind developed during these hours. No clouds. Temperature rose from ~3°C to 18°C. the monte has several very well defined vegetation areas, the dominant ones being a poplar fringe - beginning to bud and a Eucalypts center - some blooming. of course, all trees have been planted - several sp conifer, Salyx, quince, citrus, ombu (one) and most are introduced. A rough sketch of the monte: (not really good scale)



Along the SW + SE edges are extensive fields of pampas grass. to the NW & NE are swamps (now dry) and short-grass fields. Chickens use all of the monte for scratching; there are also a few turkeys and ducks

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7 September (cont'd)

(10-11, 0-1) Farmhouse Monte, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pucia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Species seen or heard

Rhyncotus rufescens (heard outside monte)

Anas flavirostris calling

Milvago chimango elanus leucurus displaying

Polyborus plancus

Vanellus chilensis

Pluvialis dominica

Columba picazuro — nest w/ one egg in low conifer 2m off ground many other nests higher

Leptotila rufaxilla — nests in Eucalyptus

Zenaida auriculata

Guira guira

Chrysoptila melanolaima

~~(2, 0 [illegible])~~

Furnarius rufus (building ovens)

Cinclodes fuscus

Anumbus anumbi (building nests)

Leptasthenura platensis (singing)

Hymenops perspicillata

Pitangus sulphurescens calling

Machetornis rixosus

Satrapa icterophrys

Serpophaga subcristata singing

Phytotoma rutila (♀)

Tachycineta leucorrha singing

Troglodytes aedon singing

Mimus saturninus

Turdus rufiventris singing

Poliioptila dumicola

Molothrus badius sing

Molothrus rufoaxillaris

Molothrus bonariensis

Pseudoleistes virescens

Amblyramphus holosericeus calling

Geothlypis aequinoctialis

Zonotrichia capensis singing

Sicalis flaveola singing

Spinus magellanicus singing

Passer domesticus

(10, 1) Farmhouse monte ~~SE~~ SE to ~~coast~~ coast (~ 30, -15), Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pucia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1305 left camp roughly paralleling the SE running fence which skirts the edge of the monte. I walked ~ 100-400 m to the NE of the fence for 3.5 km, where the fence ends. There I continued on another ~3.5 Km until reaching the Atlantic coast. There I reached the coast at 1530, remained for 0.5 hrs, and then returned over the same route, arriving at the monte at 1815. During the afternoon a strong N-NW wind blew continuously, and extensive cloud-cover ~~came~~ came in from the S-SW, developing from 0% to 70% while I was out. Temp ~ 12°C. See camp list of 25 August for list of spp. seen in a comparable (but not as extensive) walk through most of the habitats visited today. Leaving the monte one enters a ~~2000~~ wide (N-S) strip of pampas grass with occasional hollows which during wetter years would now be water filled (they have Solanum t/o Tule). This changes abruptly to a zone in which Spartina grows on higher sandy ground between lowland swamps. The swamps are extensive, usually only 10-30 m wide, but sometimes over 500 m long (NE-SW axis). They are mostly Tule, with some large patches of open water. Now, however, they are largely dry. Only a few far to the SE remain with

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7 September (cont'd)

(10,1) to Coast, Estancia Midaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Monsarinos, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

expanses of open water. Many patches of tole are quite dry. Toward the SE, in the approximately 2-3.5 Km (between these distances) a third type of habitat can be found: this is a series of higher NE-SW strips of sandy soil between the Spartina and tole; they are covered with grasses which at this time of year are less than 6" high. However judging from the presence of woody stalks, this veg. grows height to ≥30 cm during the summer. Beyond ~3.5 Km, a broad band of sand dunes develops. The majority is pure, blowing sand; altitudes of ≤10 m are reached. In some places there are sparse patches of grass, obviously of several different kinds (one a thin, short (8 cm) grass which because it is so sparse can scarcely be seen from a distance; another is a thick bunch grass, growing in dark patches but with 20 cm or more of sand between each bunch, 40 cm high). There are also other types of ground cover, but very little in any given place. Toward the coast the veg. becomes more common. The dune zone (according to Instituto Geografico Militar topo map 3757-27-2) is ~ 3.5 Km wide. The coast here runs NE-SW, paralleling the habitat strips described above. The actual beach, i.e. the strip between veg. covered dunes and water at low tide, appears to be ~ 30 m wide with a steep incline. I arrived at a time of low tide, but could not discern if it was incoming or outgoing. It is pure sand, not a hint of mud. Water was muddy, with an appreciable (for the area) surf. The tide had exposed a ledge, many feet below high tide, which runs parallel to the beach and in places creates small ponds during low tide. There was surprisingly little debris on the beach.

Species list (annotated as to which zone seen in: P (pampas grass) S (spartina), T (tole +/or swamp) G (higher grassy areas) D (dunes), B (beach) O (ocean). I suspect that the strong wind decreased the number of species observed, particularly in the grass and spartina areas.

Spheniscus magellanicus (B; dead on beach)
Rhea americana (P, S, D)
Rhynchotus rufescens (P, S)
Nothura maculosa P
Podiceps major O
Diomedea melanophris O
Macronectes giganteus O
Ardea cocoi T, G
Euxenura maguari G, T
Chauna torquata G, T
Anas flavirostris T
Anas georgica T
Anas sybilatrix T
Anas versicolor T
Elanus leucurus P
Circus buffoni T
Milvago chimango P, S, T, G, D
Polyborus plancus P, S, T, G, D
Fulica sp T
Haematopus ostralegus B
Vanellus chilensis S, G

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(10,1) to Coast, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

7 September (cont'd)

Chanadrius falklandicus B
Gallinago gallinago (collected) T
Larus maculipennis (flying everywhere)
Larus dominicana (B♯, D)
Sterna maxima O
Sterna sp O
Columba pizacuro T
Zenaida auriculata (flying over T, P, S
Leptotila rufaxilla G, T
Cinclodes fuscus S, G, T
Asthenes sp (collected 153, 154) S, P
Phacellodomus striaticeps, P
Phleocryptes T

Pitangus sulferescens P, S, T, G
Hymenops perspicillata P, S, T, G
Lessonia rufa S, G, T, D
Tachyuris rubrigaster T
Satrapa icterophrys G
Tachycineta leucorrha P, S, G, T (especially)
Troglodytes aedon P, S
Anthus correndera D, B
Pseudoleistes virescens P, S, T
Amblyramphus holosericeus
Agelaius thilius T
Molothrus sp flying

Poliolimnas Stupnella loyca G, S
Zonotrichia capensis P, G, S, T
Sicalis sp. flying, G
Poospiza nigro rufa S
Emberizoides P, S

Comment: within the Spartina habitat are patches of grass of low stature, less than 5 cm high. There are sometimes extensive. Occasional Spartina 'dikes' run through the middle of tule strips. 2 spp armadillo seen: mulita (S, G) and peludo (P). Many nutria tracks in eastern swamps. some possible capybara tracks (ranchhands say that they are present there.)

Farmhouse to Pt II to 11 Km N of Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

8 September

0905 left camp. temp = 8.5°C. clouds = 100%, very strong S wind which blew all night and brought brief periods of rain. During the night a storm moved in (as Don Juan predicted because of the strong N wind of the last two days). But it has produced very little rain. We drove directly to (1,20), the short-grass field along the W edge of the Estancia by Pt II. I wanted to check out the shorebird population here, last examined there 4 September, because of the recent period of N wind (which may effect the precise timing of departure and arrival of migrant shorebirds). Thus, I anticipated the following possible changes: decrease in S. temperate breeding sp (ie. Oreopholus, Zonibyx) and increase in N temperate (Pluvialis, Tryngites). Certainly, all but Oreopholus conformed to prediction. Tryngites finally appeared definitely, there were noticably more Pluvialis dominica, and Zonibyx was essentially absent. Oreopholus appeared more or less the same, although as noted elsewhere it is disappearing from other locations. See spp accounts.

O	P	T	Van	Zon
7	1	3	1	1
10	8	2	1	
11	1	3	2	
2	2		1	
1	8		2	
2	1			
2	2			
	1			
8	1			
7	3			
1				
3				
1				
14				

Ann - ~~marks~~ + author - cov + for

Zon, Zen Kisk

Civ

Pseul

Mil

36040

30645 6 golden 2 zon

: 46 bridge

51 - field w zon ~~15~~ 3+5.1

Gold

Orco - 6

sheep

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Farmhouse to Rte 11 to 1½ Km N of Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Maipu, Provincia Bs. Aires, Argentina

September (cont'd)

After driving through this field, which lies parallel to Rte 11 on a slight rise above the rest of the Estancia, we stopped to observe Tryngites. The survey of the field, encompassing units (0,17-19); (1,18-20); (2,19-21); and (3,21), was fairly complete (see list below). The field is now predominately short grass, with vestiges of a moderately dense thistle cover remaining from last summer (the wind, inordinately strong) was removing these). There is some vertical relief, with several rises of 1-2 m, and circular depressions 75-100 m across and 1-2 m deep. These depressions contain stands of Solanum malacoxylon.

Birds seen in this field (~5.6×10^5 sq. meters):

Vanellus chilensis 10

Zonibyx 1

Orcopholus 71

Pluvialis dominica 28

* Tryngites subruficollis 8

Speotyto cunicularia
also Annumbis annumbi

Anthus correndera

Anthus furcatus

Cinclodes fuscus

Pitangus sulpherexens

Colaptes campestroides
Zonotrichia capensis

Pseudoleistes virescens

Milvago chimango

Zenaida auriculata
sp
Lessonia rufa

1030 drove north along Rte 11 looking for goldens + buffies. Encountered very few Pluvialis, no Tryngites. 11 Km N of the Medaland gate (6 Km N of Rte 11 bridge over Arroyo Chico) we found the field which last November had rivaled Medaland for #'s of buffies. Today there were none, but there were Zonibyx, Pluvialis, and Orcopholos (as well as sheep + their droppings). This field is littered with sheep droppings. On Instituto Geografico Militar topographic map # 3757-27-2 this field lies at (87,67) their coordinate system along the E edge of Rte 11. Beyond this field we went another 2 Km, finding nothing of note. Many of the fields along the road are much too high and weedy for upland shorebirds, although there are a series of areas which appear to be eminently suitable yet not occupied. This includes the northernmost section of Estancia Medaland which lies just S of Arroyo Chico and is bounded on the W by Rte 11. (i.e. (22,30) and surrounding units). We returned to here after turning around on Rte 11. To get there we had to return to the gate at (3,22) and work our way via gates on the Estancia lying west of Arroyo Chico. At (14,26) a herd of sheep spooked a pair of Orcopholos and a solitary Tryngites. Stopped by the grid 11 at 1150 and found 4 WRump, 10 baird's, and 9 Knots on the grid (plus one falklandicus).

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Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

8 September (cont'd)

there were a total of 35 canutus in the vicinity (see sp. accnt ; also see Grid 11 data book).

From Grid 11 we crisscrossed the fields between the Arroyo and Rte 11 as far north as Rte 11 bridge. Then we forded the Arroyo, and explored the uplands from (24,30) SW to (21,27). There were only a few Zonibyx and Oreophilus, mostly quite near the mounds which border Arroyo Chico. Some areas in here appear as if they are suitable for Tryngites. ¶ At 19,27 we crossed through a gate, and followed the Arroyo (again in the surrounding upland fields) SW to the next fence, paralled that as required to reach a gate to the SE, returned NE to the Arroyo, ~~and returned to the~~ We continued this tactic to Tower Llanos south gate (12,17) and then struck SE out over the Llanos, skirting the plowed field. Finally, we passed through T L south gate (9,10) and returned to the camp motte. Returning, the only areas where we saw Oreophilus were in the fields around (14,22) [see journal 26 August]. There were also Zonibyx and bairdii here. Nothing on tower Llanos in the way of shorebirds except several Vanellus pairs. Peeps common in the Arroyo along the water. ¶ Note: the very strong S wind is having great effect on water distribution in the arroyo today. Water level at the grid has receded 5 m!! to where it cuts through the middle of (11,1).

(2,3) La Orqueta, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Arg.

10 September

reached banding site 0445, the same set of mud where I banded 5 September. Sky clear, a very light N breeze, temp = 3.3° at 0400 but decreased to ~0° by 0700, at which time the last on the nets froze. C. fuscicollis, ~~and~~ C. bairdii, and Charadrius falklandicus roosting in La Orqueta area; we spooked birds out of depressions in the mud as soon as we got there. As far as I could tell these birds were roosting solitarily, and we never came upon a raft. Numbers of peeps down from 5 September, with less than 75 total there. ~~15-20~~ 10-15 Ch. falklandicus. A few Calidris melanotos, ≥10 Pluvialis flying over, 2 Steganopus tricolor. No Zonibyx. Netted 2 fuscicollis, 1 melanotos, 1 falklandicus. Water level down slightly, but the mud is still calf-deep. It ~~was~~ appears that the shorebirds are not becoming very active until part the time when they can detect the net. Do this because of the low temperature or the fact that because they roost there they don't have to fly in and therefore can afford a later start

T	G	O	Z	V	
54	1	8	2	2	~~flick~~
	1	4		2	~~Spoo~~
	1	2		2	Ember
	2	2		2	~~Cinc~~
	29	3		2	~~Pswd~~
	2	5		2	Krisk
		2		2	
		2		2	~~Zen~~
		6		2	~~Gorus~~
		8		2	~~Wirlw~~
		3		2	~~Lyss~~
		1		1	
		3		2	~~Anth~~
		3		25	~~Plothum~~
		1			
		6			

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Farmhouse to (18,10) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

10 September (cont'd)

1015 left camp and drove NE toward La Manga, looking for buffies in upland area where they had been last year, and checking out two lakes for preps. Weather idyllic - a slight N breeze, no clouds, temp ~18°. During the hour & trip I found no upland shorebirds save Vanellus, which found me on their own. The two lakes still were full - or at least contained sufficient water to obscure any suitable prep foraging habitat. Stop in (19,9) in a small pond with tule (the tule ~5 m in diameter). Within the tule, in fact perched on top of a matted area, is an occupied carancho (Polyborus plancus) nest with 2 eggs. 2 pectorals flew by as I investigated, one landing at the edge of the tiny pond, and remaining till after I left.

(0,18) region of Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina.

1255 left camp toward (0,18) region (i.e. Rte 11 field). En route saw that the pond at (8,5) is dry today. A moderate N wind developed during the morning, temp/water increased to 21°C, clouds oscillated but towards the evening increased to 30-70%. We spent the afternoon looking at upland shorebirds on Rte 11 field, particularly Tryngites (see spp accts). Upon arrival it censused the area (see below). At dusk we tried to establish where Tryngites were roosting, unsuccessfully (see sp. accts). Census results: Vanellus chilensis 25, Pluvialis dominica 36, Oreopholus ruficollis 59 Tryngites subruficollis 54. Also present: Nothura maculosa, Milvago chimango, Larus maculipennis, Zenaida auriculata, Speotyto cunicularia, Colaptes campestroides, Cinclodes fuscus, Pitangus sulfurescens, Lessonia rufa, Anthus correndera, Anthus furcatus, Pseudoleistes virescens, Zonotrichia capensis, Embernagra capensis. Returning from the Rte 11 field we came upon 5 Thinocorus in (12,12). Spinus magellanicus & Elanus flying over

Arroyo Chico - (5,13) to (15,27), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

11 September

0815 left camp. 100% clouds. Temp = 8°C at 0630! (how warm in contrast to last several weeks). no wind. The cloud cover was also different from previous days - not only was it >0% at dawn, but it was a high, thick stratus with 1/4th of the usual low, thin cumulus. The Arroyo level has dropped perceptibly in the lower reaches, almost certainly because there is no longer a wind to pile it up. The channel was less than 1m wide at (10,13). By 0930 I was at grid 11 (15,27) and managed 2 readings before a combination

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(5,13) to (15,27), Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Prov. de Bs. Aires, Argentina

11 September (cont'd) of disturbances rendered further observations impossible: sheep, cattle, and Kesey, a local Irish peon. Grid totals: White-rump 12.5 (8-17) 25; Baird's 2.5 (2-3) 5. See Baird's and WR sp. accent. The water line at the grid was up, running ~1 m inland from the (n, 1) stake. Resighting today: Rp Lg White-rump banded 1-15-74 in the Arroyo, Hallelujah! Collected 2 WR en route to camp, also 1 Thinocorus

(0,18) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prov. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Lois and I drove out to the buffy foraging field by Rte 11 at 1730 in order to look for a roosting site again. Upon arrival, I began to census, but light was too low to allow adequate detection. Clouds 100% with a slight N wind, ~15°C. Oreophilus and Tryngites appeared to be the prevalent species, the former less abundant but more widely dispersed and therefore more evident. The buffies, ~40, were in one flock. They took off at 1803 and flew off (see Tryngites sp. accnt). Rostrhamus present but not many.

Farmhouse Monte (#0) to La Orqueta (2,3), Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prov de Bs. Aires, Argentina

13 September 0815 left the monte in order to survey the effect of yesterday's rain, 17 mm which fell between 0430 and 2030. Temperature at dawn this morning = 10° C; clouds 100% (fog) and no wind. I followed farmhouse road ~500 m NE, and then began working my way through a series of Spartina ridges and across a broad field to La Orqueta. ~~After~~ This took ~50 min. I remained along the midway at La Orqueta until 1045, and then followed it and another body of water ~1000 m S. there I turned around, and returned via the old Medaland Farmhouse RD to Farmhouse monte, arriving at 1230. Although the early morning fog disappeared before I left camp, at 1105 a SE wind began, quickly blowing over a dense fog ~~[illegible]~~ presumably of ocean origin (the smell of salt and ~~[illegible]~~ spray was unmistakably just as the fog arrived. Habitat of this area was described 26 August; it has changed little - a few mushrooms here or there, there, the grasslands may be a bit greener, the wind is certainly thicker as a result of the heavy rain but the precipitation did not [illegible]

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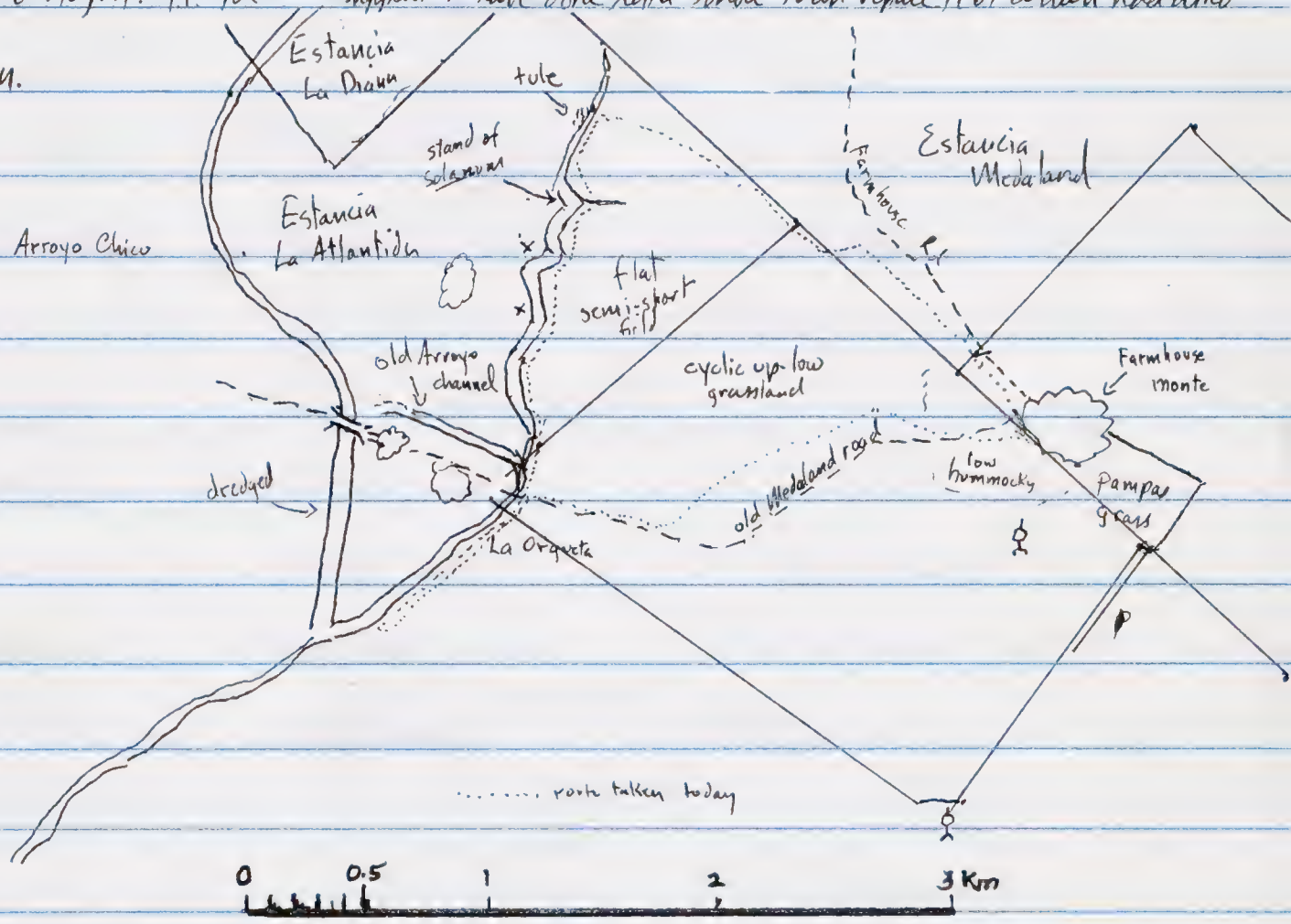
13 September (cont'd)

La Orqueta
(11,0) to (2,3), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

alter appreciably the amount of surface water now even contribute that much to the quality of habitat appropriate for white-rumps. Indeed, the La Orqueta mud-water system is at best, now, as wet as it was 26 August. i.e. the rain appears to have done little more than replace that which had dried since then.



from map of the Instituto Geografico Militar
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The southern part of La Orqueta is a human-induced oxbow lake, the vestiges of the old Arroyo channel before the new one was dredged. The northern part is a dammed natural drainage ditch, which has been widened toward the southern end. The old channel today was superior shorebird habitat - shallow water generally less than 1" with penetrable muddy substrate. It lacked only quantities of shorebirds. It is bordered by spartina and sawgrass. The fields traversed by the old Medaland road are reminiscent of those described 26 August with a diagram. Here the periodicity of the Distachlis (lowland) - short grass (upland) cycle is shorter and less regular. Closer to Farmhouse Monte it deteriorates into small 'donish' hummocks, with dried Solanum puddles, Spartina and other wetish things in the depressions. Pig (feral domestic) and Dasypus armadillo diggings are very evident, and Ctenomys can be heard frequently in the sandy

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(11,0) to (2,3) [La Orqueta], Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Buenos Aires, Arg.

13 September (cont'd)

upland areas. -

Species seen &/or heard

Rhea americana

Nothura maculosa

Rhynchotus rufescens

Phalacrocorax olivaceous

Ardea cocoi

Euxenura maguari

Chauna torquata

Anas georgica

Anas flavirostris

Anas sybillatrix

Milvago chimango

Polyborus plancus

Elanus

Vanellus chilensis

Pluvialis dominica

Charadrius falklandicus 21

Zonibyx modestus 1 (la orqueta) 6 (upland)

Oreophilus ruficollis 6 upland

Calidris bairdii 50+

Calidris fuscicollis 80

Calidris melanotos 15

Limosa haemastica 5

Tringa flavipes 5

Steganopus tricolor 1

Himantopus himantopus 15

Larus maculipennis

Larus dominicanus

Zenaida auriculata

Columba picazuro

Leptotila verreauxi

Asio flammeus

Guira guira

Colaptes campestroides

Cinclodes fuscus

Furnarius rufus

Anumbius annumbi

Phleocryptes

Spartanoica maluroides

Asthenes hudsoni

Asthenes sp

Pitangus sulphurescens

Hymenops perspicillata

Xolmis rufa

Cistothorus platensis

Anthus correndera

Tachycineta leucorrhoa

Molothrus sp.

Pseudoleistes virescens

Agelaius thilius

Zonotrichia capensis

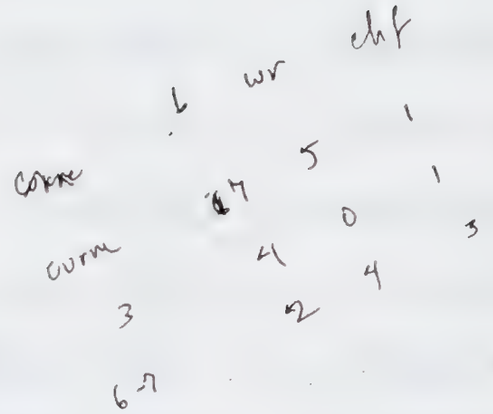
Embernagra platensis

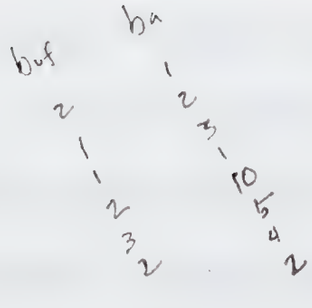
Sicalis luteola

(2,3) La Orqueta, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.

14 September

reached banding site 0445 after walking entire distance with poles, mud, and a blinking (on off) head lamp. Fog temp 0330 = 11°C. slight E breeze. first light detectable ~0545. Only managed to get rupture nets, partly because Lois didn't come, partly because of an unsatisfied coffee dependence, but mostly because, after the rain, the mud is even more bravo: By the time I had the nets down, at 0930 my rain pants showed blue through the mud only on the upper portion of the rear; the rest was 1/8 - 1/4" thick. And it is incredible mud - black, sulfurous sulphery-smelling, thick, yet thin enough so that not only will it not support a pole, but you sink 8"-20" before hitting a curiously solid bottom (which itself is not penetrable with a pole, creating a technical problem). Sandpipers, however, sink not, or at least no more than it takes to leave quite distinct foot prints. Nets were placed as indicated by the X marks on yesterday's journal's map. White-rumps and Ch. falklandicus spooked from roosting site as I came in at 0445. Heard no bairdii then. Netted 11 WR, 1 bairdii, 4 falklandicus (2 of which were recaptures see sp. accnt) see banding schedule





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14 September (cont'd)

(8,12) to (13,24) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S of Ivanchuo by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

arrived at the curve below the tower, (10,13) in Arroyo Chico, at 1700. The water level has increased somewhat ~~since~~ from its low level just prior to the 12 September rain, reaching a level comparable to that which we encountered in Medaland 23 August upon our return. Cloud cover this afternoon: ~90%, with a coastal fog poised to blanket us tonight. Slight S wind, temp. ~15°C. We drove from the curve N to (13,24), counting peeps as we went. Very few were foraging in the Arroyo, a total of 13 bairdii, 9 fuscicollis, and 5 Characteinus falklandicus. Perchance the recent increase in H_2O level has rendered the area less attractive.

(15,21) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Ivanchuo by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1730 - as we were turning around in (13,24) to run back down the Arroyo, Pichon (a local peón) and Pedrito (the Huici's nephew) passed by as they tried to hunt ruca with boleadora (unsuccessful, & and a very infrequent activity probably provoked by the visiting nephew). As they passed they spooked into flight a large flock of upland shorebirds. We drove near to the birds in order to census the flock and watch. These fields I described 26 August with a diagram. The flock was distributed largely in the upper areas of the field, but spread well into low places. There was no obvious habitat division by species. Present within the flock were 180+ Pluvialis dominica (<250), ~~[illegible]~~ ≤75 Tryngites, 100+ bairdii, ~20 Tringites. The heights of the grass made species census difficult, particularly for the calidridines. Low light and the great size of the flock compounded censusing. No Oreophilus. Birds began to leave at ~~[illegible]~~ 1750, then a group of Tringites. Buffies began to fly at ~~[illegible]~~ 1755 when one flashed a wing, but the first flights were local, i.e. between different parts of the same field. 180C almost exactly the flock took off (see Tryngites spp accnt 10, 11 September). The flock swirled overhead, and broke into smaller flocks, most of them single species composition. I tried to follow Tryngites, but wound up with a large bairdii ~100+ flock w/ one Tryngites. After 2 or 3 minutes of flying over this field they went to the ESE at a higher altitude, some splitting off to the north. I am fairly certain that they roosted in the (21,20) area, as for 5 minutes after they lost altitude, they flew low over this area, circling low, landing, taking off again - typical pre-roost behavior. As I watched them in frequently a Tryngites would pass through my field of vision

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14 September (cont'd)

(15,21) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

almost invariably headed SE. This would be consistent with the observations that I made on buffie roosting flights 10 and 11 September. The whirling flights of the different flocks appeared to have something of ~~segregational~~ segregational effect (by centrifuging?) on the flock as a whole. As far as I could tell, flocks became progressively purer, and the final directions of the species may have been different as well. However I by concentrating on following one particular flock I sacrificed part of the overview. I must admit that it was a remarkable event - hundreds of the birds engaged in various independant bits of aerial acrobatics. I suspect also that other flocks from adjoining fields were recruited. Equally remarkable was the suddenness with which it ended: by 1815 there were no shorebirds ~~flying~~ flying. Incredible #'s of shorebirds were flying.

~ 47.25 ha

15 September

(0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.

0905 entered the (0,18) etc. region by Rte 11. Temperature this morning was 11° at 0800, heavy fog, slight SE breeze. Censused shorebirds present upon my arrival, and listed other species seen: shorebirds: Vanellus chilensis 39; Pluvialis dominica 57; Oreopholus ruficollis 31; Tryngites subruficollis ~~74~~ 74; Calidris bairdii 2. others. Chauna torquata, Milvago chimango (Rte 11 Castelar), Larus dominicanus, Larus maculipennis, Circo cinereus, Nothura maculosa, Speotyto cunicularia, Cinclodes fuscus, Colaptes campestroides, Pitangus sulfurescens, Lessonia rufa, Zenaida auriculata, Columba picazuro, Mimus saturninus, Molothrus bonariensis, Agelaius thilius, Pseudoleistes virescens, Sturnella defilippi, Anthus correndera, Zonotrichia capensis, Sicalis luteola, Spanos magellanicus. I remained in (1,20) for the rest of the morning, leaving at 1145. See Tryngites, Pluvialis, Vanellus egg account. Located 2 Vanellus nests w/ incubating adult (see Nest.) also see cowpie account.

~~Returned~~ (15,21), Estancia Medaland, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1715 drove to (15,21) in order to follow roosting flights. Clouds 100%, temp = 11°C wind light SE. Heavy fog lying over the coast, moving upon us rapidly. Reached (15,21) region at 1730 - large shorebird flock ~~of others~~ was there, again predominately golden's, with some buff's, baird's and a few Zonibyx modestus. This evening the flights took off at ~~at~~ 1745, leaving en masse as they had the evening of 14 September. But there was not the awesome simultaneity of flight which had occurred 14 Sept.

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15 September (cont'd)

(15, 21) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

nor did it appear that there were as many shorebirds involved. The behavior of departing flocks was also different: absent was the local milling + swirling of the birds over this particular field; instead they flew directly off to the east. I followed several flocks as they flew, and it appeared as if they landed in the vicinity of the 2nd Windmill (i.e. (24, 15)). Those appearing to land there included Tryngites and Pluvialis, and flocks which passed over us from the W several minutes after the main exodus. Other birds took a more northerly course. Incident vertical light at the time of departure (measured with Gossen Lunapro light meter) ≈ 200 ft candl.

(10, 13) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariago, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1815 stopped at the curve in the Arroyo downstream from the tower while returning from previous location. A mixed flock of Calidris bairdii and fuscicollis, and Charadrius falklandicus were there foraging in shallow water and exposed mud. During over 45 minute observation period took notes on the calidridine flock. See Calidris bairdii. This location is described 5 September journal. Rained lightly and briefly during our stay there.

(0, 18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

17 September

reached (2, 19) at 0615, ≈ 0.5 hours after first light of dawn. I parked the car in as close a position to where I'd been during the morning of 15 September as I could attain with the scant light available for navigation. A heavy cloud cover (100%) accompanied a persistently moderate SE wind which blew all night. Temp at 0530 = 7°C. Drizzling infrequently and lightly. I heard the first Pluvialis dominica ≈ 7 min after arriving, and am certain that none spooked in front of the car en route. By 0623 I could just barely perceive Pluvialis and Oreophilus ≈ 70 m away. Tryngites did not appear until 0637, and in number only after 0645 (see sp. accnt.) I remained until 0930. Weather conditions remained fairly constant. collected one Tryngites (160) returning to camp in (3, 16)

(24, 16) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1630 drove to the second windmill, 4.5 Km NE of farmhouse monte. Clouds 100%, low and threatening but thin. Strong, persistent SE wind. Temp = 13°C. This was of the Estancia we first entered this season 25 August. Upon arriving at the windmill I

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17 September (cont'd)

(24,16), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancholoy road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prov de Bs. Aires Argentina

climbed to the platform just below the wheels, 5m above ground (and 6 m above average local levels). Remained on top until 1815, canvassing shorebirds. From the windmill one has an excellent view of the surrounding area. (but one must look either east or west, as the platform forces a choice). I looked to the western half of the sky, and counted all birds flying in the sky W of the NE-SW fence line running beneath the windmill (see 23 August map). Habitat overlooked from the windmill include (going from the tower W) a thin stretch of NE-SW flooded grass - Solanaceous swamp, extensive Spartina (also NE-SW) in some places several hundred meters wide, some tola swamps, patchily distributed along the W side of the Spartina grass, and the extensive grass fields which extend for over 1.5 km W to Arroyo Chico. Directly along the NW fence line beginning at the windmill, ~2 km NW, are the fields where during 2 recent evenings (14, 15 September) we watched upland shorebirds mass before going to roost. the 15th I had traced some flocks to the vicinity of the 2nd Windmill. At 1700 only a few Pluvialis were visible ~300m to the W from the windmill. The following data were taken:

time	light intensity ft candles	Tringa	Pluvialis dominicus	Gallinago	W Rump	baird's	buffy	Pectoral Sandpiper	UHID	total
1700	700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1705	700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1710	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1715	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1720	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1725	400	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
1730	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1735	300	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1740	300	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
1745	260	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20	25
1750	260	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6
1755	200	0	28	0	0	0	3	0	6	37
1900	200	0	80	0	15	20	0	0	1	116
1805	130	0	100	0	0	10	5	0	0	115
1810	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1815	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		6	208	2	17	30	8	8	30	
								0		
										309

The figures are accurate in so far as relative #'s of a species in different time periods, and general numbers + comparisons thereof between species. However I found that a considerable number may have gone undetected because by the time that

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(24,16) Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

17 September (cont'd)

they reached the vicinity of the windmill many of the flocks were flying low. We found that a large number of golden plovers and peeps were roosting in the shallow flooded grass and Solanum swamp beneath the windmill.

(0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

18 September 0625 reached location where I had deserved buffies from yesterday. Light level upon arrival ≈ 8 ft candl. a continuous light SSE wind was blowing (as it had all night), cloud cover = 100% but thin, temp at 0530 = 10°C. Goldens were on the field when we arrived. Buffies appeared at 0631, flying across the field + then NE parallel to the road. At this time light intensity = 40 ft candl. Lois and I remained in the stationary car until 0800, when because Tryngites were no longer visible from the car, we left, driving first to the SW corner of the (0,18) field, and then following the fence as far as the farmhouse road bridge. From there we took the Arroyo to (7,12), crossed the fence at (9,10) and returned to the Arroyo. We had planned to continue up the Arroyo, but at that point I managed to rupture a gas line in the car, so after jury-rigging a temporary robe we returned to the Estancia. see Tryngites spp. accnt. Today I began a new form of recording sitings of shorebird species. Under each sp. but in a subset of species accnt is a table containing a column for date, location (co-ordinate system value on Medaland), # activity (flying, foraging, etc), # number, and accompanying species.

(24,16) Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Late afternoon drove out to the second windmill, as yesterday afternoon. 1710 climbed to same position, 5m above ground. Temp ≈ 15°C, strong steady SSE wind, clouds increasing from <10% to almost 100% by 1915. The cloud encroachment came in the form of a several km wide line extending SSW-NNE as far to either horizon as we could see. It was composed of a low layer of dark but relatively thin cumulus, with a few enormous cumulus at various points along the length. Until the "line" moved across, light levels were much higher today at equivalent times than they were yesterday. Therefore I was surprised to find that shorebirds were coming to roost earlier and without the overwhelming unison that has characterized their flights on previous days of observation, particularly yesterday (for timing). At ~1735 I descended

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18 September (cont'd)

(24,16), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Tuandos by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

and began searching for flocks from a slightly raised portion of the surrounding field. I found that a lower position helped tremendously in picking out low flying flocks, as it put them above the visual horizon, whereas their heights aided in fixing a precise landing location. Because you have to see the birds before you can see their landing spot, I stayed down. Between 1755 and 1805 we saw myriads of golons flying ~~west~~ east, presumably from western foraging areas. Last night, 200+ settled in the wet area beneath the second windmill. We were able to pick up one very large flock (100+ individuals minimum) more than 5 minutes flight time to the west in the direction of the (0,18) region (but who knows?) Calidris melanotos settled down in the wet area slightly to the north, i.e. (16,23) but may have moved (18,23) down to the main road later. After it became apparent that the wind was going to continue past landing hours, we left (1840), driving S along the fence.

(19,9) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

In the pond beside the Polyborus plancus nest (see journal 10 September) we found a large flock of roosting Pluvialis dominica, Calidris (melanotos + bairdii + WR?), and Tryngites (at least one). Habitat identical to roosting site by (24,16). Left at 1945, almost dark. rain. wind continuous. Sun set at 1838

19 September

Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Tuandos by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

0630 temp = 9°, cloud cover 80%, a very slight, barely detectable E wind. Entered the Arroyo early in the morning, passing through the (9,10) gate on Tovar claims. I followed Arroyo Claro, occasionally skirting into the surrounding uplands, as far as just below Rte 11 bridge (22,34), where I crossed it. I then returned along the eastern side, visiting the large lake + swamp system NW from the 3rd Windmill in the (25,30) region, and traveling most of the remainder of the return in uplands. From 0800 to 0910 I watched a flock of ~~C.~~ fuscicollis (see sp. account) as they foraged in (15,26) just S. of grid 11 (which had no birds at all during my stay in the vicinity. As can be seen from the sighting records, C. bairdii is now infrequent in the Arroyo, much decreased over previous outings. However, it still appears to be plentiful in the uplands. C. fuscicollis appears to have increased markedly, and the flocks are now using the lower

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19 September (cont'd)

Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

grid region more than the more southerly portions of Arroyo Chico. Both Tryngites and Pluvialis d. continue to appear in new foraging areas. Oreophilus and Zonibyx, and especially Rhinocorys are much less frequently seen, as is Charadrius falklandicus. For distribution & numbers respectively see species sighting records.

(19,9) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1700 reached the La Manga good where last evening we found roosting shorebirds (see journal). By evening the morning SSE breeze had shifted to ENE and increased in intensity. Clouds less than 10% during afternoon but increasing (from SW) in the evening (a high cirrus formation) to 60%. Temperature rose to ~16°C mid afternoon. When we arrived & set out 2 nets to facilitate placing them after dusk. As I got unloaded flocks of a few goldens passed over. IVL at 1715 ≈ 3000 fc. First goldens landed in the roosting site at 1755, and were immediately dispersed by chasing, territorial Vanellus. This pattern continued however eventually the numbers began to build. Details: 1801 regular flights of goldens began to appear (IVL = ~750 fc). Many were coming in from NW, particularly along the fence which runs from (19,9) out along the N edge of Tower Haus. 1810 IVL = 600. few birds have actually landed in the roost by this time. Some appear to be using Tower Haus swamp. There are many flocks of shorebirds visible in the air. 1815 potential flock of buffies landing in (15,12) region, just on the W side of the new fence. 1816 birds landing in (19,9). A curious feature of the roosting flights this evening is the inordinate amount of criss-crossing of paths of flocks - there seem to be many directions of flight. [1818 - a buffie in (19,9).] Another interesting feature is the # of shorebirds flying very high and always to the south. Often with ducks, swans, other shorebirds, etc. Godwits, Tringa, peeps, etc. The sun set at 1834. We waited until ~1930 and then walked 2 nets into place, downwind of the roost ~25 m. I then circled around, turned on my headlamp, and tried to spook the birds. In order to do so I had to approach within ~5 meters. They rose, flew a few meters across the wind, and then up wind, all avoiding the net. Cheers. Got a good look at a vizcacha returning home to camp

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Tower Llanos, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Ivanchoo by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

20 September

1700 drove to Tower Llanos in order to search for Tryngites roosting areas. Last evening from 19,9 we had seen buffies apparently landing in the (15,12) region. Accordingly, we drove to that area, parking in (15,11) in order, hopefully, to observe without being a disturbing factor. Temperature = 17°C ; 100% cloudo with a NW breeze. We reached (15,11) at 1720, at which time IVL = 500 fc. Shortly after we arrived intermittent rain (sprinkling) began, continuing until 1930. Both sp. tetanus (Rhynchotus rufescens and Nothura maculosa) were very active, calling all evening. During the early evening we looked to the western + southern horizons for shorebirds, recording sightings in respective species sighting records. By 1745 flocks began to appear regularly, most flying in from the SW (IVL at 1745 = 400 fc). At that time a large flock of buffies (50+) came in from beyond last years cornfield, i.e. the NW and the (0,18) region. See Tryngites sp. accnt. When the buffie flock landed in (14,13) we moved to within 100 m (1806). From that site we commodiously found not only the roosting buffies, but also saw large flocks of Pluvialis flying, and small groups of buffies flying here in many directions over the llanos. [See Tryngites sp. accnt for tale of mobile-net operations. Banded 2 buffies (see banding schedule]. The vegetation in the (14,13) → (15,11) region is a transition from short grass w/ dry patches → very thick high grass → swamp and bare mud → thick, high grass → short grass. The buffies were on the edge of the short grass zone, moving into the higher + thicker grasses. These transition zones are a common habitat on the Estancia, so there would not appear to be a shortage of roosting areas.

(2,3) La Orqueta, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Ivanchoo by road, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

22 September

1215 drove to the nearest point on Medaland to La Orqueta and walked to the holding pond (see map 13 September). A moderate S wind blew throughout the morning, continuing into afternoon. Clouds increasing from 10% cirrus. Temperature ~ 13°C. The holding pond has dried beyond its state beyond the last rain, making it drier than I have ever seen it. In one place, several hundred meters S. of the tule stand, mud has encrusted and dried across the surface. However there is no other quasi-dry crossing. But the prime areas of shorebird feeding (prime 10 days ago) appear to be

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(2,3) La Orquesta, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.

22 September (cont'd)

'withering away' - narrowing to a thin ± <5 m strip in the center of oozy mud. Peeps were here and along the border of open water areas in other portions of the pond. The shorebird community has changed considerably: baird's sandpipers are essentially gone, as are Charadrius falklandicus. I saw the following species:

Calidris bairdii 3

Calidris fuscicollis 164

Limosa haemastica 8

Tringa flavipes 15

Himantopus himantopus 4

The change in baird/WR ratio is striking (see previous exp. to La Orquesta journal)

I began to observe WR, especially searching for banded birds (none) but was defeated by a tremendous spookiness in the sandpipers, abetted by pernicious Vanellus and Larus maculipennis. As I approached the birds they would continue foraging, but slowly gather into a tighter + tighter flock. Finally, almost invariably, they flew.

(8,12) to (11,17) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Arg

1710 drove toward Arroyo Chico, passing through the (9,10) gate and entering the Arroyo in (8,12). Strong S wind blowing all day, 100% cloude, temp ~ 9°C. Arroyo level was down lower than it was just previous to the last major rain, i.e. lower than it has been all spring. We drove as far as subunit 4 of the (1,17) line-and-grid looking at fuscicollis/bairdii flocks, reaching the north fence of Tower Llanos at 1740. See fuscicollis op. account re flocks seen (one a new, returned banded bird!)

(13,13) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Parked in 13,13 within 200 m of the 20 September Tryngites roosting site at 1745. IVL at that time = 750 fc. We remained in that vicinity until 2030 trying to capture Tryngites with a portable car headlamp which I borrowed from our car + rigged for hand-carry. Late during the session, just before it was too dark to see flying birds, we lost track of the major baffle flock. Although we did find it again later, it was only by accident, as we stumbled across them in the dark. As a result, we caught none. Details of the evenings roosting flights: 1757 we saw major

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(13,13), Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Tandil by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

22 September (cont'd)

flocks (of Tryngites + Pluvialis, presumably) take off from (0,18) region. IUL at that time = 600 ft. They whirled over that area for several minutes and then apparently landed in that vicinity. There were at least two large groups, visible from that distance (2.5 km) against a setting sun. 2 obvious large flocks. 1803 5 Tryngites appeared in front of us (IUL = 500 ft), flying around, apparently trying but not landing in the 20 Sept. roosting site. 1805 Cinereous harrier going over. IUL at 1810 = 500. 1810 – 3 Tringa f. going over and 10 Tryngites beginning to circle, going down in the roost site used last year at the edge of a patch of Solanum in trampled short-grass. 3 more Tringa at 1815. Buffs at 1816. 30 buffies going toward Tower Llanos swamp and beyond – 1816, going down beyond new fence but before Spartina. 1820 IUL = 260. golden going over them and a Tringa. 1825 6 WR. flying toward 2nd windmill, 7 Tringa also at 1826. 1827 4 WR. + 8 Tringa. 1828 6 Tryngites. 1829 big flock of peeps over tower Llanos 1830 5 buffies went down exactly on last year's roost site, IUL = 130 ft. at 1830. 1832 30-40 Tryngites flying low over 22 Sept roosting site. 20 are flying by in distance. 2 Pluvialis with buffy flock, which is still flying low over area used 20 September. Described as figure 8, flying 200 m+ beyond. 1835 (IUL = 80 ft) the buffy flock went down of 20 Sept site. 1836 10 WR going off toward 2nd Windmill. 1838 buffy group flew started to feed after sitting quietly all facing E. 1838 the flock took off. At this point I stopped doing anything but following the major buffy flock. They eventually landed ~ 150 m E from the car, just W of a bare-mud part of Tower Llanos swamp in Distichlis. It was approximately at 1840 that goldens become very numerous in the air, including a flock of 30-40 which landed where the buffies had been. At ~ 1910 4 Rheas scared the buffies, and I lost them as they flew. We found, much later, that they had landed in the same area.

(10,13) to (13,24) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Pdo. de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

23 September

0640 left for Arroyo Chico via (9,10) gate. Sun up before 0644. slight-mod E wind, 100% cloud cover, temp = 7°C at 0600. Reached (10,13) at 0655. see sighting records. the wind has redistributed water in the Arroyo, somewhat, exposing a few new areas, obviously shifting the water edge from E → W by several horizontal inches. But in

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23 September (cont'd)

(8,12) to (13,24) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Arroyo Chico

most places there is simply not enough H_2O to make a visually significant shift. First concrete signs of space-specific aggression in fuscicollis this morning - see WR sp. accent. Suggests that I doubt that it is coincidence that this is occurring shortly after reappearance of last year's banded birds, particularly as it occurred in a flock w/ an old bird in it. 2 more old birds reappeared in WR flocks along the Arroyo this morning. By 0900 the wind had increased to a point where it shook the car. From 9 until 1145 I took micro-topo data on Tryngites, Calidris f., and Charadrius falklandicus acera. Although the early morning passage north to 13,24 yielded few bairdii in the Arroyo, by 1000, as I worked back, it was obvious that they were increasing. Many (30+) birds were foraging along the upland border of the Arroyo, in the grass. This is particularly true between linear grid subunits 5 and 7, the (11,19) region.

totals - (see sighting records)

Calidris fuscicollis	106 arroyo	Pluvialis dominica	100+ up
Calidris bairdii	6 arroyo 44+ up	Charadrius falklandicus	6 arroyo
Tryngites subruficollis	27 up	Zonibyx modestus	1 arroyo 1 up
Tringa flavipes	1 up, 5 arroyo		

(11,1) to (19,9) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

24 September

1430 left Farmhouse Monte walking to La Manga in order to survey the effect of today's rain and to move the blind into final position in front of the Polyborus nest. It began raining late last night and by 0300 was going steadily. By 1700 it had accumulated 22 mm. SE Wind continued throughout the day, and as the rain ceased to drizzle a fog came in, lifting and then closing in by 1800. As a result of the rain there are small puddles in many places, the ground is saturated, yielding water when stepped upon, and some of the Solanum swamps have small areas w/ surface water. The (19,9) region where there has been a small shorebird roost gained considerable water as a result of drainage patterns. Other similar depressions in the short grass - mound / hummocky area (old sand dune) in that vicinity are also reflecting the rain showing some

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24 September (cont'd)

(11,1) to (19,9), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juarello by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Prov de Bs As, Argentina

water, particularly those w/ short grass substrate that has been riddled with livestock hoof-prints. Actually some of these areas show more water gain than the big swamps in the vicinity, which now are mud. I walked from Farmhouse route to the first wire/mulf along the road, then cut W to the fence, following it to (19,9), arriving ~1630. After remaining there ~0.5 hours, I returned via the broad Spartina belt which parallels the fence (NE-SW) all the way to Farmhouse Road at (10,0).

Species seen:	Vanellus chilensis	Spectyto cunicularia
Rhynchotus rufescens	Pluvialis dominica	Columba picazuro
Nothura maculosa	Charadrius falklandicus	Leptotila verreauxi
Euxenura maguari	Calidris fuscicollis	Zenaida auriculata
Chauna torquata	Calidris melanotos	Chrysoptila melanolaema
Anas sybilatrix	Tryngites subruficollis	Colaptes campestroides
Anas georgica	Gallinago gallinago	Furnarius rufus
Anas flavirostris	Tringa flavipes	Cinclodes fuscus
Polyborus plancus	Himantopus himantopus	Synallaxis sp.
Milvago chimango	Larus maculipennis	Phleocryptes

Hymenops perspicillata	Anthus correndera	Molothrus bonariensis
Pitangus sulfurescens	Anthus furcatus	Zonotrichia
Lessonia rufa	Tachycineta leucorrhoa	Poospiza nigrorufa
Machetornis rixosa	Agelaius thilius	Embernagra platensis
Satrapa	Pseudoleistes virescens	Sicalis flaveola
Tachyornis	Sturnella	

One of the flocks at La Vanga (19,9) (perhaps not a coherent flock but certainly a set of juxtaposed flocks) was composed of Tryngites, Pluvialis, Tringa f., Charadrius falklandicus, and both Calidris melanotos and fuscicollis.

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(11,1) to (2,3), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

26 September (see map 13 September) The Sun appeared on the horizon at 0634, temp 8°, 0% clouds, light S wind. I left camp at 0710 and walked fairly directly to La Orqueta (2,3). Today there was considerable water remaining on the surface from 24 Sept's rain. However, there was not enough to do more than leave a trace of water in many of the swamps and low areas. Curiously, in higher lying puddles near larger lower areas which last year contained much water, there is more water than in the low areas themselves. The La Orqueta holding pond did rise noticably, there now being a thin, almost continuous strip of open water running the entire length of the pond. Down below the earthen dam, the old Arroyo bed is also much fuller, covering most of the sand and mud that previously had dominated the areas. Along the borders of La Orqueta holding pond, the 'ditch' inlets were saturated, some with standing water, and most, where cows had trod, with micro mosaics of ponds 3"-4" across. I ~~remained~~ arrived at La Orqueta at 0830, and remained until 1100. By then, a fierce wind had come up out of the SW, making walking in that direction difficult. It is one of the strongest winds we have had here. Temperature rose to 17°C. Sky remained clear. See sighting records + camp list for species seen. Also see fusciollis sp. accent (one new, returned (UR-Loy)

19,9 Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires

1615 left for La Manga (19,9), driving from camp, with the intention of trying to spotlight roosting sandpipers. The wind has dropped somewhat from this morning's blaster, clouds <10% and temperature ~14° at 1600. The area between Farmhouse Monte and La Manga show the effects of the last rain - several new puddles exist, most of them lying along the border between the hummocky, sand dune (vegetation covered [short grass]) and the Spartina lowland lying to the west. Reached La Manga at 1700 (see sighting records re ~~S~~ seen between - Pluvialis, melanotos, fusciollis, Tryngites) After I observed a Tryngites flock until 1800 (see sp. accent) and then began recording flights of shorebirds into the roosting area. See flocking accent re details and habitat description. Over 350 shorebirds roosted there. Failed to spot-light any; it appears that the light is not bright enough.

Col	Van	But
19	111	1
8	2	2
16	2	4
21	5	23
18	2	2
2	1	4
7	2	35
13	2	2
2	3	55
2	2	12
2	2	3
2		1
15	10	142
3	2	
10		
5	2	
29	1	
21	3	
13	2	
10	2	
3	2	
9	32	
2	11	
3	43	
2		
3		
5		
5		
208		

Colonia

~~mot.~~

~~Justus~~

~~Agathe~~

~~Speo~~

~~Pitanga~~

Zonp

~~Pseudo~~

~~Zea~~

~~Hymenop~~

~~Colaptes~~

~~Mito~~

~~Lanio~~

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27 September

(0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs Aires, Argentina

Sun on horizon at 0633 temp = 3.5°C. no wind, 30% clouds. By 0710 cloud cover increased to 80-90% and by 0845 it was raining hard. At dawn we drove to the (0,18) region and immediately censused birds present. Along Farmhouse road leading to (0,18) there is considerable water lying in the ditch running parallel. The (8,4) swamp now has several hundred m² of surface water. Arroyo Chico water level is not greatly increased, but enough so so that as a small series of islands just S. of the bridge are now covered. Arrived at the (0,18) region 0730. Census totals Tryngites subruficollis 142, Vanellus chilensis 43, Pluvialis dominica 208. Also present: Bubulcus ibis, Nothura maculosa, Larus maculipennis, Limnodromus griseus, Himantopus himantopus, Zonaibis auricularis, Speotyto cunicularia, Colaptes campestroides, Pitangus sulfuratus, Tyrannus melancholicus, Anthus correndera, Molothrus bonariensis, Agelaius thilius, Pseudoleistes virescens, Sicalis luteola, Zonotrichia capensis. Finished the census at 0755. As the other day, the census, at least insofar as Tryngites is concerned, is low: after sampling by running down the fence and back up along the eastern edge of the field (i.e. the two long sides), I returned to the site where buffalo were dunsed (1,18) and counted, from one position, 151 Tryngites, 50 goldens, and 3 Vanellus (2 incubating ~75-100 m apart). The last census taken here was 15 September. Accepting the #'s of each species in both samples as a representative index, the following changes have occurred. Oreophilus ruficollis is gone; Pluvialis dominica has increased fourfold, Tryngites has doubled. Vanellus remained constant. After censusing this morning I also found 6 Limosa haemastica in the field. Asio flammeus and Circus buffoni were hunting near the field along the roadway. At 0845 we were forced to return to camp because of rain (I had left 8 birds out to dry).

29 September

(10,13) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

0445 reached the arroyo below the tower for banding. Slight W breeze, temp 3.5°C, cloud cover low and heavy, obscuring an almost full moon. We put up 2 nets and would have done more but for the unexpectedly early first light - 0610. We stopped working on the nets ~0520. However, no birds appeared until 0543, when the first golden flew over calling. At 0546 white-rumps called near the nets, and by 0655 there was a mixed flock of golds/white-rump numbering ~30 birds foraging by the nets. We caught and banded

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29 September

(10,13) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires.
7 fuscicollis, 1 bairdii, and 1 Cinclodes fuscus. Also caught, but did not band, a Sicalis luteola
After banding we placed a grid in the area, 50 × 15 m in dimensions with subunits of
5 × 5 m, finishing ~ 0930. Between 0930 and 1130 I searched the local WR flock for banded
birds (see sp. accnt)

(12,13) Tower Llanos, Estancia Medaland, Pdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina
1800 entered the roosting area of Tower Llanos, after briefly surveying Tower Llanos swamp (and finding nothing). We parked facing west near the edge of the short-grass habitat in a position where I could see several places where we have found buffies roosting previously. At 1806 we saw the first buffie flight. See flocking accnt re details of evening movements.
Although we were, at first, able to locate a mixed roost of golden + buffies and successfully follow them until dark, I decided not to act because they were very spooky. Returning to camp I noted which skill on the Llanos Rd we found 3 WR as they spooled from a roost site after dark. (see sp. accnt).

Olp region, Estancia Medaland, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

30 September

0445 arrived in the newly gridded area along Rk 11 in order to net Tryngites. Placed
4 nets by 0530. Finishing 20 min after first light.
Clouds = 0. No wind. Temp at 0345 = 3°C, but by dawn there was a heavy frost. At 0557 I heard the first Pluvialis calls, At this time IVL does not register, even though I can see the nets from the car. IVL at 0600 = 0.065 fc; cloud cover increasing to 10%. IVL at 0610 = 2 fc, at which time I began to see a few Zenaida. However, after the first Pluvialis no more appeared until 0613 when a burst in calling came, many golden began to appear, and a flock of ~30 buffies appeared, avoiding the net, flying low. IVL at this time = 7 fc. From this sighting on buffies were flying continuously over the field, but we caught none. The only bird which fell was a Zenotrichia, which I cursed and released.
0620 IVL = 13 fc. Sun on horizon at 0628. Just before it appeared a heavy mist almost enveloped the nets, but stopped just short. It does not appear that foregoing site-banding will work for Tryngites

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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

30 September (cont'd)

0745 entered the linear grid area in order to finish work on stakes and to search for banded birds. We drove along the east bank from (0,13) to (13,24). At (13,24) we repaired subunit 10 and placed a new grid in the area between subunit 10 and the fence to the north. This grid measures 50 x 15 m. and is Grid 13 Territorial white-rumps continued to emplane from the area as we pounded stakes. See resighting data chart and sighting accents for #'s seen in arroyo.

1 October
10 October

(13,24) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

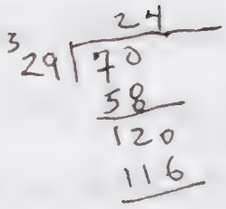
banding again - reached subunit 10 - grid 13 at 0445. Temp 2.5°C at 0330. 0 clouds, no wind. At several places along the Arroyo I came across roosting Pluvialis d., and suspect strongly that Calidris was roosting there as well. There was a large flock of plovers at 13 when I arrived. 3 Nets were up by 530, shortly after first light. I caught 2 Pluvialis in the 1st net which got tied up the 2nd. They were the only birds to fall this morning: fuscicollis and bairdii appeared only after light levels were too high. In fact Pluvialis did not start calling, very much, until 0550. I suspect that the heavy frost may have affected the birds' daily time of arrival. Even after the came, many remained stationary, huddling (particularly upland Pluvialis). The large flock of bairdii which I often see here foraging in the uplands with Pluvialis foraged along the upper reaches of the sand banks of the Arroyo until after sun-up (and frost melt). A very unproductive, but beautiful morning.

2 October

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

0900 [mod N wind, clouds ~5%, temp at dawn = 3°C.] entered the Arroyo at (6,13) and drove north. See sighting data for #'s seen. Species: Vanellus, Himantopus, Pluvialis d., Charadrius falklandicus, C. hiaticula collaris, Calidris fusc. + bairdii, Tryngites, Tringa flavipes. Steganopus tricolor. Micropalama himantopus. Took micro data for fuscicollis, Ch. falklandicus, and Micropalama. See WR spp accent re definite territorial birds.

1	1
2	0
1	0
1	0
1	0
3	0
1	0
3	0
3	0
2	1
3	1
1	4
22	7



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Arroyo Chico (1,14) ≠(3,24), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

4 October — clearon (i.e. sun on horizon) at 0625. temp = 11°C no wind. 100% clouds. reached subunit 1 of the linear grid at 0717 and began sampling, finishing (i.e. completing to subunit 10) by 0750. Grid totals: Calidris fuscicollis 25, Calidris bairdii 11, Calidris melanotos 1, Micropalama himantopus 1, Charadrius falklandicus 1, Pluvialis dominica 3, Himantopus h. 2, Anas georgica 10. Upon reaching the Grid 13 region I parked the car and began observing fuscicollis there (see sp. accent) In addition to sampling I took 1 hour following data on 10-4-74 A and 10-4-74 B (on adjacent subunit 10). Grid totals: C. fuscicollis 2.3 (ave.) (0-4) (range) 35 (total); C. bairdii — (0-1) 1 [9-11 AM 15 samples]. Territoriality was the dominant theme of the grid this morning - 3 birds controlled the entire area, producing a % territorial bird calculation of during 1 hours 5 min censuses = 76% see WR sp. accent. Returning down the Arroyo I searched for banded birds, but did not record sightings. Arroyo water level has been going down continuously since the last rain, but it has not yet reached the level known achieved just prior to said rain. And today it started to rain as we drove in. See sketch of water level at Grid 13 in grid notebook. By @ 1730 intermittent rain produced 2.5mm

5 October — Began reading linear grid at 0728. 80% clouds, temp = 9°C, with a moderate S wind. By midmorning the wind picked up considerably and the sky cleared to <5% cover. Finished reading the linear grid sample at 0805. totals: Calidris fuscicollis - 32; Calidris bairdi 6; Calidris melanotos 2, Tringa melanoleuca 2, Pluvialis dominica 3, Charadrius falklandicus 1; Himantopus 2, Limosa haemastica 1, Larus maculipennis 2, Anas platyrhynchos 2, A georgica 2, Anthus correndera 1, see sighting records.

(7,11) Estancia Medaland, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1800 parked car off Farmhouse road in (8,11) - the fallow field S. of Tower Ranch, where we had found roosting buffies and goldens in previous evenings (see Tringites sp. accent 2 October) By that time the S wind which had been blowing most of the day had stopped, and very little cloud cover remained. temperature ≈ 10°. The field which we were watching lies between Farmhouse road and the South Tower Ranch Fence, encompassing

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5 October (cont'd)

(7,11) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

units (6,12), (7,10-11-12), (8,9-10-11), and (9,9). It was plowed 3 years ago, and planted with corn, the last signs of which disappeared this past winter. However, obvious furrows remain, giving the area severe microtopographic relief - 'hills' of 6"-8", 2' apart + running in a ~N-S line. The area in which the flocks were was noticably more furrowy than other surrounding areas. It is all short grass w/ some thistle (not yet growing). When we arrived at 1800 I was surprised to see a considerable number of birds already in the area - 100+ Tryngites and 200+ Pluvialis. See flocking accn't re behavior. Shortly after sunset (1855) they flew, but we were able to keep track of some until after dark. At 2000 we marched out to their roosting positions and placed stationary nets. Unfortunately, the horse kick in the stomach which I had received 3 October prevented me from working mobile nets or putting out a full complement of stationary ones. See flocking accn't re lack of success strategy + lack of success.

7 October

Linear Grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Began reading the linear grid at 0655 - temp 8°, 70% clouds, no wind. a balmy morning. Given the lack of rain the waterbirds on its way down again, revealing new islands at various points along the length of the arroyo. This does not seem to have done very much for total use #'s, though: Grid totals Calidris fuscicollis 24; C. bairdii 5; Limosa haemastica 1; Tringa flavipes 2; Pluvialis dominica 6, Charadrius falklandicus 1, Himantopus h. 1; Phalacrocorax o. 1; Euxenura maguari 1; Anas georgica 6; Anas flavirostris 2; Larus maculipennis 2; Lessonia rufa 1. After sampling we turned about, searching for banded birds and counting total birds along the 3 Km stretch. Dismal: C. fuscicollis 42, C. bairdi 10, Micropalama 9 Limosa h. 1; Tringa f. 2; Pluvialis dominica 7, Charadrius falklandicus 4; Himantopus 4, Phalacrocorax olivaceous 1, Chauna torquata 2, Anas georgica 27, Anas flavirostris 4, Anas (shoveler) 2, Larus maculipennis 8, Sterna trudeaui 1.

(23,16) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

After a very warm afternoon taking microtopographic data (temperature up to 24°C !!) I parked beside the second windmill in order to observe roosting flocks coming in to the area. At 1830 I began taking notes, recorded in flocking account, re timing + numbers of birds flying in

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(23,16) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

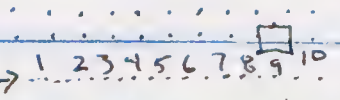
7 October (cont'd)

and over the roosting area. This site has been described previously. Briefly, it consists of a series of parallel habitat strips – grassy old dunes, shallow marsh, spartina, marsh, grass fields, which run in a NE-SW direction parallel to the fence (or vice versa). The birds roosting site is described in today's Flocking account.

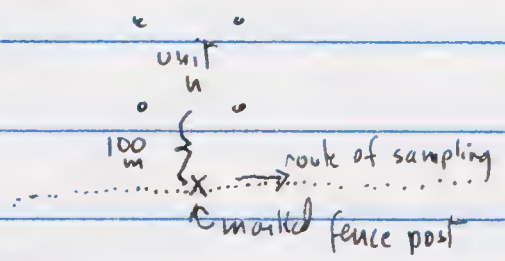
Grid 15
(0,18) region Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

8 October

0745 began reading the large scale (ruffy grid #15 which we placed over a week ago in the heavily used 0,18 region. The grid extends parallel to the road, 1 Km long and 100 m wide. Each subunit is 100 x 100 m, i.e. 1 hectare:



9 has been displaced 50 m closer to the road in order to avoid a blind spot caused by a low rise which would obscure the rear of 9. Sampling procedure involves driving along the fence (to 100 m away to W running parallel to grid) and stopping at painted fence posts, placed so as to position unit 100 m from the middle of the side of each unit.



Sampling is done from a blind on top of the car, at a height of ~ 2.5 m; with binoculars for 3 min from each sampling point. During today's sample I was pleased to see that the birds paid very little attention to us, remaining to forage and, indeed, to support sit within 25 m of the car. Finished sampling at 0848 – a long time. totals: Tryngites subruficollis total 187 (range 0-44); Vanellus chilensis 13 (0-3); Pluvialis dominicus 125 (7-24). Of course density (i.e. # / hectare) can be calculated by dividing by 10. For details see grid #5 data book.

(22,17) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1700 drove to the area NW from (23,16) where last night I saw a large flock of unidentified peeps swimming about as if to roost. It turns out to be a scant 300 m from the 2nd windmill

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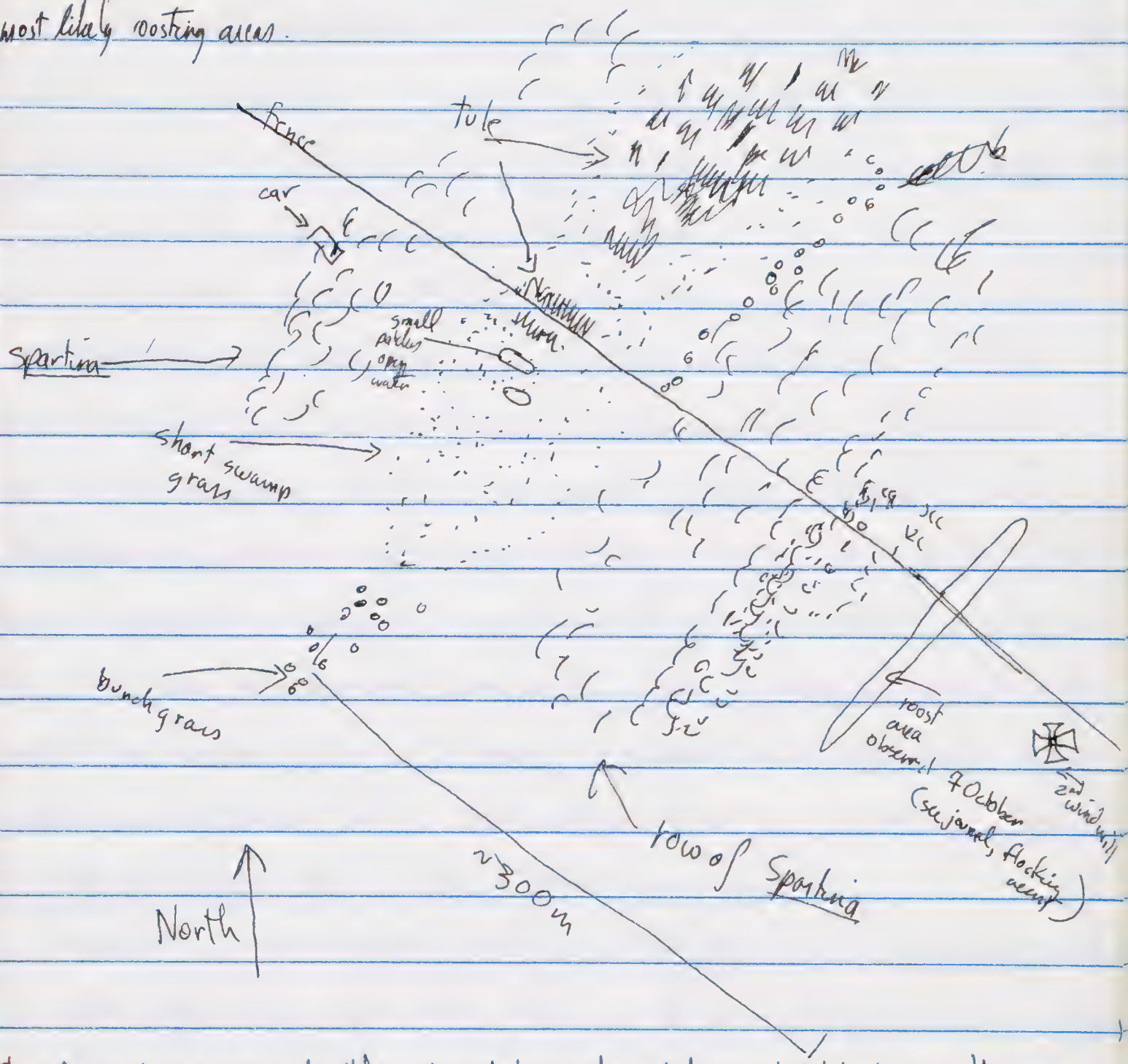
8 October
cont'd

(22,17) Estancia Medaland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Pdo de Mediariaga, Prov. de Buenos Aires, Argentina

actually lying just along the far edge of the wide Spartina strip which defines the wedge of last night's roost. Upon arriving, I tromped about in the vicinity for ~0.75 hours in order to find the most likely roosting areas.



The above diagram presents the distribution of vegetation / habitat types in the area. There is a very obvious polarity in a NE → SW direction: it continues for km's on both sides of the diagram. We parked in the NW most part of the 2nd Spartina patch, S of the fence. I walked to the open, short swamp grass area near the car, and through several hundred m of tole to the NE. No Nycticryphes, but one Polyborus nest (see next accnt). The obvious candidates for roosting were the 2 open areas lying on either side of the fence, the ~~SE~~ SW one being a beautiful green swamp of grass <6" high, heavily used by cattle with water filling the holes and occasionally forming small open puddles, and the NE one being

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8 October (cont'd)

(22,17) Estancia Medaland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

an area worked over by pigs - heavy rooting amidst the tussock grass, plus some 'short-grass' swampy area also trod by cattle. The southern area is ~ 135 across x 200 m long. See flocking accent re movements of shorebirds during the evening. Temperature at 1730 ~ 15°C, 75% cloud (high hazy), mod NE wind. Totals flying over from 1730 - 1920: Calidris fuscicollis 188; Calidris melanotos 149; Calidris bairdii 12; Tryngites subruficollis 12; Micropalama himantopus 39; Tringa flavipes 48 Tringa melanoleuca 1 Pluvialis dominica 181

9 October

(8,18) Grid 15, (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

0758 began reading Grid 15 with temp = 13°C, IVL = 2000 fc, mod. NE wind, 70% clouds. During the sampling period (until 0842) the wind picked up considerably, at times making Mr ear shake, thus rendering it difficult to ~~see~~ sample. Grid totals: Tryngites 117 (total) (5-31 range); Pluvialis dominica 124 (7-16); Vanellus chilensis 7 (0-2); Calidris melanotos 1 (0-1). We had some trouble with sheep today: they were all over the grid, and moved ahead of the cars. They did not panic, but rather would move steadily + slowly, keeping just ahead of us. They probably obscured some buffies tho' not many, not probably equally for all species. After sampling we dug the holes for the towers which will be placed ~ 100 m E of subunits 8-9.

(8,11) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

(see 5 October journal) 1735 reached observation point for area where 5 October we tried to net roosting buffies. Cloud cover ~ 20%, a decreasing ~~NE~~ NW wind (strong this morning + afternoon) temperature ~ 23°C. I immediately began counting flying birds. See flocking accent. At 1828 a wind picked up. Actually, that is a ~~bloody~~ poor description. From almost a dead calm which had developed earlier, at 1828 we were hit with a wind 'front' out of the S which hit at moderate velocity + continued steadily thereafter. We remained until 1915 - totals: Tryngites 456, Pluvialis d., 303. ~~Buffies~~ Buffy movements showed a strong peak between 1835 and 1845, at light intensities of ~ 150 - 250 fc. (~196 buffies moving past in 10 min) Golden also showed a less pronounced peak between 1855 and 1905 - 71 golden moving then at light intensities of 8 - 40 fc. Sun set between 1855 and 1900. It appeared that very few, if any, of either spp actually roosted in our 8,11 vicinity. Buffies were obviously congregating in the (11,10) region

J.P. Myers
1974

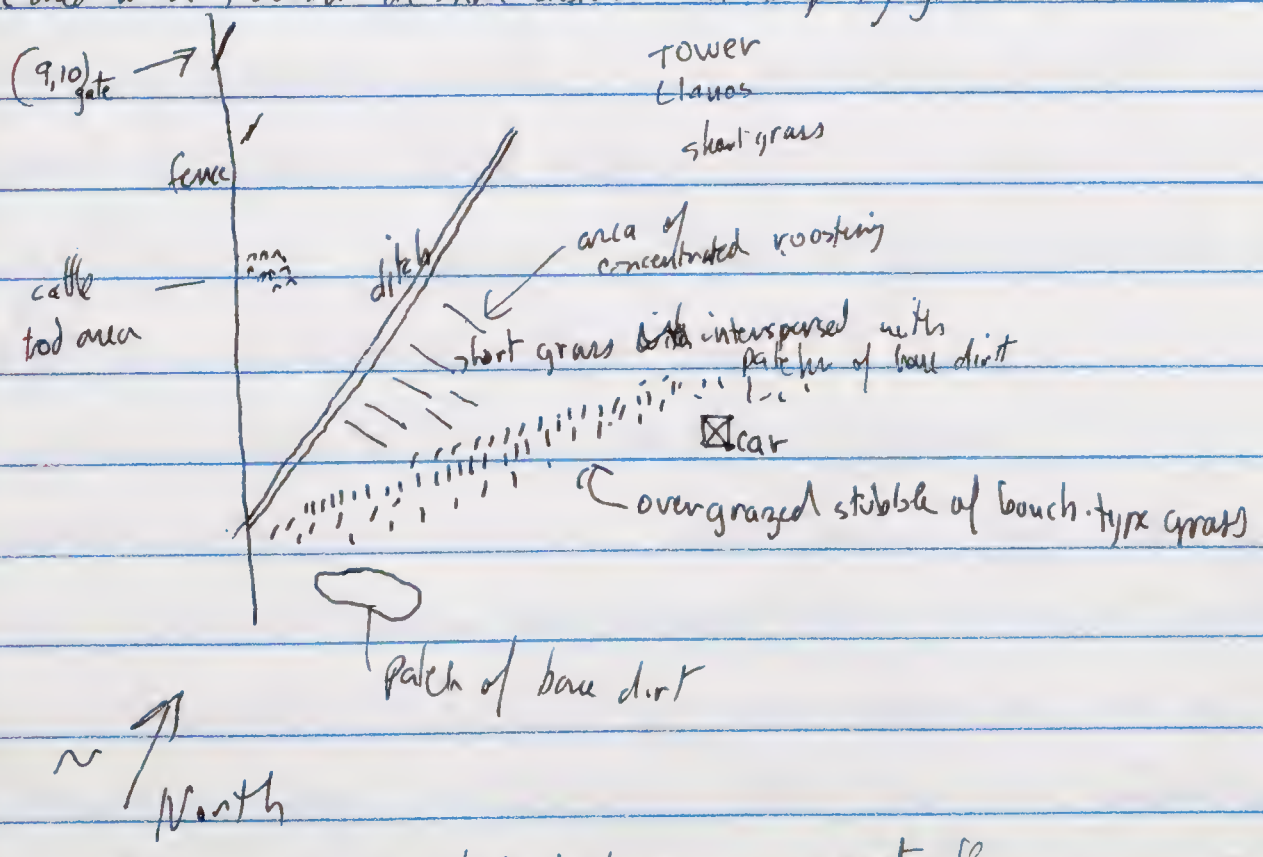
Journal

9 October (cont'd)

(8,11) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Ivandro by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina of Tower Llanos. A vast flock of several thousand birds built up there, with a large majority of those counted to night settling in that area. We witnessed a remarkably constancy in flight path of both species involving flocks approaching from the West of the Arroyo and presumably (almost certainly) involving (0,18) region birds: they entered the arroyo after diving low on the far side, swooping down into the arroyo out of our line of sight, then coming out of the Arroyo following the drainage ditch which begins on Tower Llanos in (9,11) and enters the Arroyo at (8,12). the flocks fly both in the ditch + parallel to it on T. Llanos, less than 1m above the ground, and then parallel the fence to the 11,10 region. 9 separate flocks of Icterids followed this path.

11,10 Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

13 October during mid afternoon we took micro-data for Pluvialis and Tryngites in the (6,12) and 10,11 regions. The birds proved to be very difficult to work with, not allowing good site-specification very often. As a result in 3 hours we got only 4 points (2 of each spp). Weather during this time period was characterized by the threat of rain - heavy clouds moving over from NW + W, and occasional light sprinkles. Temp ≈ 16°C. At 1730 we moved to 11,10, to an observation point slightly removed from the area where 9 October we had discovered a large Tryngites roost.



See flocking accent per details of the birds movements this evening. Due to the very heavy cloud cover light levels were low, earlier in the evening. To my surprise, however

modelled temp ~ 24° 5% cloud

13.2 - 3gp

J.P. Myers
1972

Journal

13 October (cont'd)

(11,10) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

the birds appeared to be coming into the roost area later than 9 October, though not considerably so. mode for 9 October was the ~~1835~~ 1835-1845 period (incident vertical light ranges of 80-210 fc), whereas today modal movement occurred between 1845 and 1855 (IVL ranges of 10-50 fc). Thus, at least for these two samples, absolute values of light intensity do not appear to move roosting flights earlier. If anything, they occurred somewhat later today. Totals seen flying: Tryngites 554, Pluvialis 29. I suspect that the Pluvialis figure is so low because 1) we were near no extensive Pluvialis foraging areas (making early evening detections low) and 2) movements were occurring after light levels fell too low for us to make satisfactory spottings (see flocking accnt). We remained in the vicinity until 2045, waiting for light levels to fall to a point where the night-light would work - however it began to rain steadily & we retreated. By dawn the next morning rain accumulated to 10mm.

(11,1) to (22,15), Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

14 October 1330 drove from Farmhouse Monte toward the #2 Windmill with the intent of taking microtopo data. It was a very warm afternoon, temperatures reaching 24°. Moderate NW wind, and a 5% cloud cover exaggerated by a heavy, ~~[illegible]~~ oppressing haze. I encountered Pluvialis immediately upon leaving the monte, and began taking micro data immediately (see Pluvialis sighting record & sparsecard). After getting 3 points from a series of Pluvialis groups between the monte & La Manga, I drove to the long stretch of Pectoral habitat near (22,15). There was a good flock there (15 birds) and several Tringa flavipes. 3 unclassified + 1 Tringa point. At 1745 I returned to the monte in order to pick up Lois so that we might night-light Tryngites.

(11,10) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

~~1830~~ 1845 reached the (11,10) region where we observed roosting Tryngites during 2 previous evenings. I quickly located several roosting flocks, and parked between two so as to facilitate finding them after dark. We waited in the car until 2045 when I could no longer detect any light differences between E & W horizon, and then began walking through the roosting area carrying a car battery, hunting light, and hand net (0.5m diameter on 2m pole). I located 3 or 4 flocks, but netted only 2 birds, a Tryngites and a Pluvialis. (see flocking accnt & band

$$64\overline{)97}\quad 1,\ 64$$

$$39\overline{)42}\quad 1,\ 39,\ 3$$

$$175\overline{)1750}\quad .6,\ 1050,\ 8$$

J.P. Myers
1974

Journal

14 October (cont'd)

(11,10) Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina (schedule). During the evening a moderate - strong N wind continued. Temperature dropped to ~13 °C. Very few clouds, all on the S part of the horizon. Sunset at 1857 or so, perhaps as late as 1900.

15 October

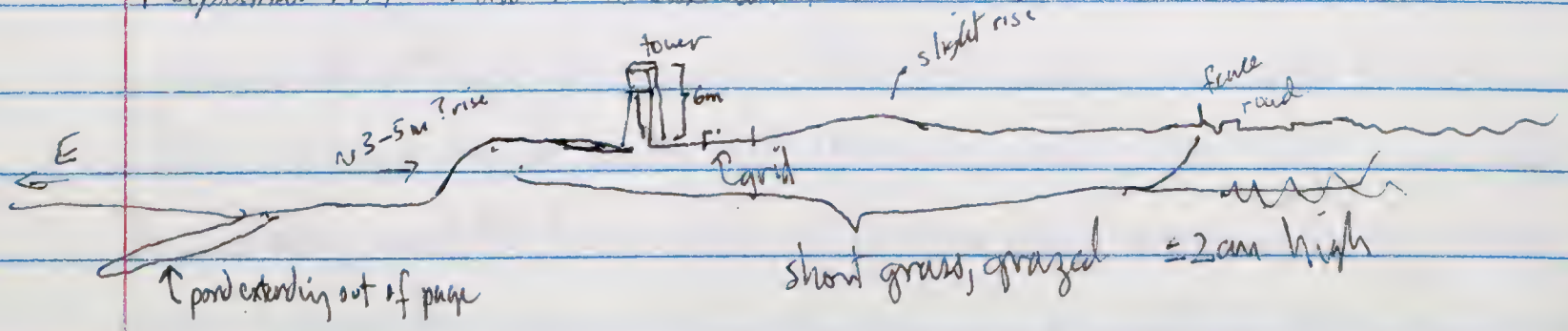
(11,8) region, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

on tower at 0545, temperature 13°. slight S-SW wind, clouds 20% and increasing rapidly. ~~[illegible]~~. I remained on the tower until 1145, taking grid samples from 16a and 16b, and following data for buffies and goldens. the story of the morning, unfortunately, was the scarcity of Tryngites - depressingly few near the tower on populating my grids. In absolute terms, in the 1,18 region as a whole, buffies are not scarce: at any given moment I could count 100-~~200~~ 200 within a 250 m radius of the tower. But in the immediate vicinity, i.e. on the grids, very few graced one w/ their presence. Grid totals: 16a (64 samples) Tryngites 0.13 (0-2) 9; (average, range, total)
Pluvialis dominica (39 samples - will explain discrepancy later) 1.1 (0-3) 42);
Grid 16b Tryngites (42 samples) 0.6 (0-4) 25; Pluvialis (17 samples) 0.6 (0-2) 11.

The discrepancy in sample number results from the fact that I was able to reconstruct 2+ hours of 5 minute samples from following data in which I was able to record minute by minute positions of all buffies on the grids (only because there were never very many). Thus, however, while doing this I ignore Pluvialis position. What is not reflected in the grid totals nor the raw data is the general pattern of foraging initially by the small group of Tryngites here this a.m. see flocking accent. We also took following data on 2 Pluvialis, one of which demonstrated classic space-specific behavior (see 16a following data book).

(so for the reconstructed buffy samples there is no Pluvialis info.)

With respect to the tower: it is placed ~75 m from the edge of a rise which runs in a NE-SW direction along the western boundary of the Estancia in 1,18. I described the area in previous journal entries beginning 13 and 17 October 1973, 4 September 1974 and others. a cross section:



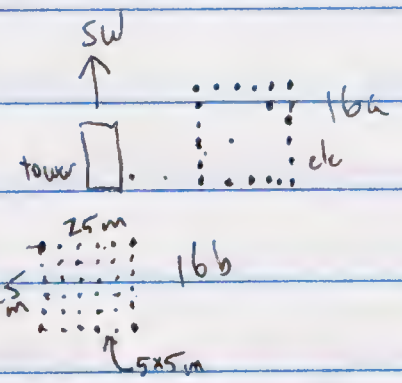
JPMyers
1974

Journal

15 October

(1,18) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

(cont'd) Although not represented in the cross-section, a typical formation on the 'ridge' is a depression much the converse in dimension to the slight rise shown in the to the W of the tower. They are shallow - less than 3 m deep, usually fairly round and perhaps 100-150 m across maximum. Vegetation now is all under 5 cm and the vast majority is less than 3 cm high. I have taken plants for ID. Most are grasses. There is Trifolium nigri in abundance. Thistles have not yet begun to regenerate. An inordinately high density of leaf-cutting ants covers the field, and there are many clumped groups of armadillo (Dasypus) digging. I have also taken for ID various insects which we have found - most coleopterans and some lepidopteran larvae. small spiders 2 scorpions. Many grubs are in the substrate, and in fact they appear to be common golden and Oreophalus food - see specimens. Grid 16a lies 25 m NW of the base of the tower; 16b lies 25 m NE:



Each grid is 25 x 25 m total (i.e. 625 m²) with subunits of 5x5 m. I will be putting in 16c and 16d which are to lie SE + SW of the tower, and be built the same as 16a and b. Also, I plan to add grid 17, a series of 75 x 75 m units composed of 25x25 subunits (i.e. the same as 4a). 17a, 17b, 17c etc.

(11,1) to (21,14) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

17 October

Began driving out towards 2nd windmill, taking microdata en route. Temp ~10°, clouds ~80% consisting of low, dense but thin (a high fog bank type) cumulus, light S wind. Everywhere on the ground are puddles as a result of 22 mm of rain (actually drizzle) which fell from the afternoon of the 15th until yesterday evening. Although this makes an accumulation of over 30 mm in 3 days, the campo does not show the effect of the rain as much as we - hidden in camp while the wind blew - hoped that it would. Many wildflowers are starting to pop up in the grass fields - it has turned a rich green. During the morning I was able to take 8 points -

JP Myers
1974

Journal

17 October (cont'd)

(11,1/ to 11,14), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Arg.,
3 Pluvialis dominica, 3 Calidris melanotos, and 1 Tringa flavipes, and 1 Micropalama. Also found 2
Vanellus chilensis nests (see nest account)

(22,17) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

Arrived at 1830 by the roosting site which we had worked the evening of 8 October (see journal that day). I had some trouble gaining entry into the area because of the recent rain, and in fact could not penetrate the Spartina as far as previously possible. Nonetheless the actual roosting area showed little if any change in surface area covered by H_2O. Placed 3 nets by 1645 – as I finished the last one shorebirds began to fly around + over. This was surprisingly late considering the data from 8 October 8 October (see flocking account). It was also true that only 1 Tringa and a few (≤4) melanotos were in the area when I arrived. Sunset at 1905 – 0% clouds, no wind. By then golden's were going overhead mostly towards the (23,16) roost area. No large flocks of peeps ever came in, although WR and Pectorals did eventually enter. Caught 2 fusciollis and 6 Pluvialis (see banding schedule), also one small bat, which I released. Retrieved the nets at the setting site and remained at the netting site until 2205, spending the last ~30 min. fueling the nets. During the evening several predators came by the roosting area: fox, a possible cat, and Asio flammeus, and Circo cinereous. Returning to camp I found many roosting shorebirds along the route, including Vanellus, Pluvialis, and peeps. (see flocking acct)

Arroyo Chico (11,14)→(3,24), Estancia Medaland, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

18 October

0757 began reading the linear grid. 0% clouds, temp 8° after a 4° dawn (sun on horizon at 0553), no wind. Arroyo back to levels of ~ 2 weeks ago, but the birds appear to have gone. totals: Calidris fuscicollis 9, Calidris bairdii 2, Limosa haemastica 2, Pluvialis dominicus 1, Charadrius falklandicus 4, Steganopus tricolor 1, Himantopus himantopus 3, Anas versicolor 3, Anas georgica 5. Oh misery. I counted a total of 23 WR while returning down the Arroyo, with one banded WR (R♀Ly A). Last night's banding fiasco may not be a result, simply, of the birds having moved their roost. Rather it would appear that a large % left. ~~had~~ fuscicollis

0,18 region, Grid 15, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

Proceeded from linear grid to the 0,18 region and immediately began to sample Grid 15 (see journal 8 October also 15 October for description of area). Temperature rising rapidly this morning, up to 18°

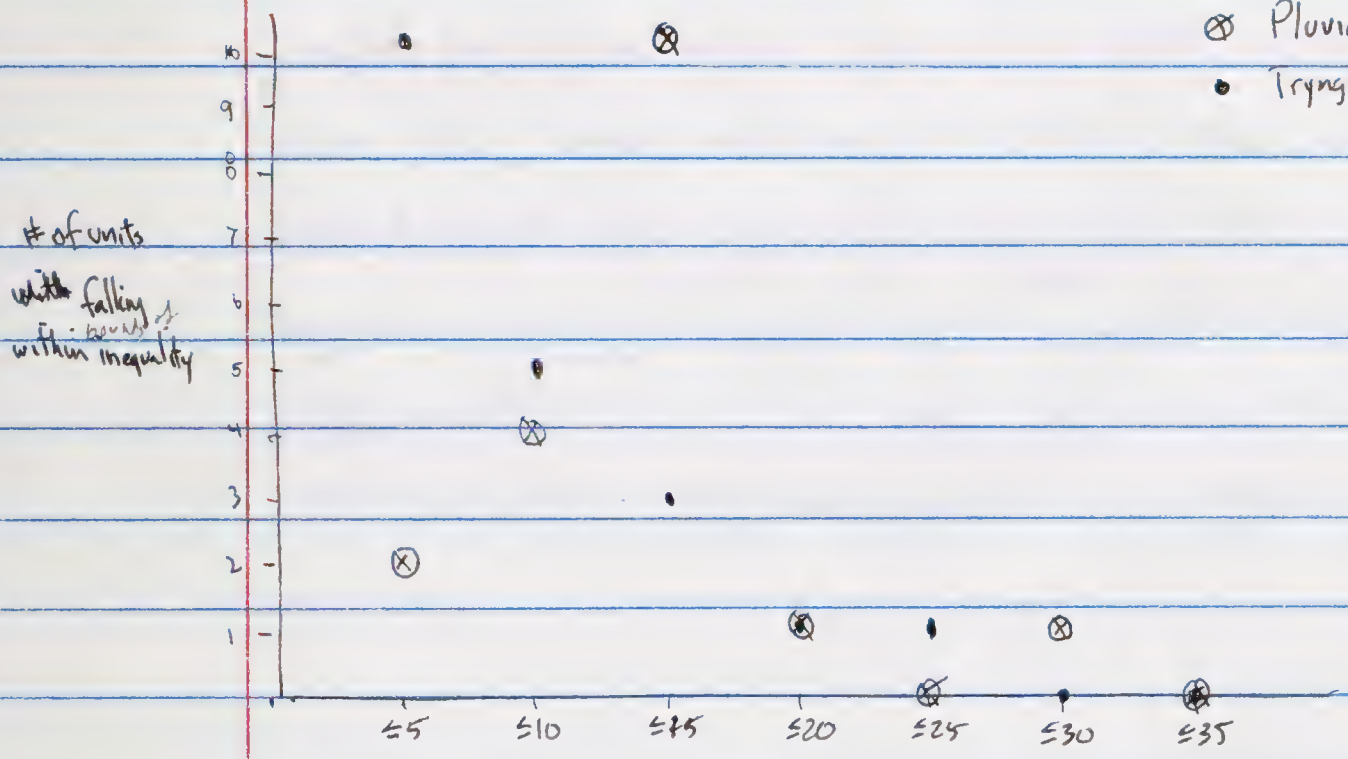
J. P. Myers
1974

Journal

18 October (cont'd)

Grid 15, (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Junchu by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.

by 0930. We sampled the grid twice, from 0915 → 0946 and ⊗ 1115 → 1148. Grid totals (species, 1st sample, 2nd sample) Tryngites subruficollis 71, 64; Pluvialis dominica 120, 126; Vanellus chilensis 6, 8; Limosa haemastica 1, 0; Speotyto cunicularia ♂, 3. Recall that Grid 15 covers 10 hectares (see 8 Oct. description). Tryngites have obviously decreased since the last sample (9 October) but Pluvialis is remaining remarkably constant; Oct 8: 125; Oct 9: 124; Oct 18: 120 and 126. Equally interesting are the graph of #'s of units containing a given number of birds (i.e. a frequency histogram):



What the graph reflects is the remarkably even dispersion of goldens in grid 15 – a dispersion strongly suggesting either a very precise individual spacing plus a packed habitat or a strong tendency towards territoriality. Tryngites, on the other hand is quite clumped in dispersion, showing many units with ≤5 birds/unit, and a smattering of units with up to ≤30 birds/unit.

(8,11) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1740 began counting flying shorebirds from same area that we had observed 9 October, i.e. in the SW part of Tower Llanos near the drainage ditch which that night had served as a funnel for roosting buffies coming in from the west. 5% clouds, wind S, temp 12°C. The evening remained largely clear until we stopped counting at 1930.

JP Myers
1974

Journal

18 October cont'd

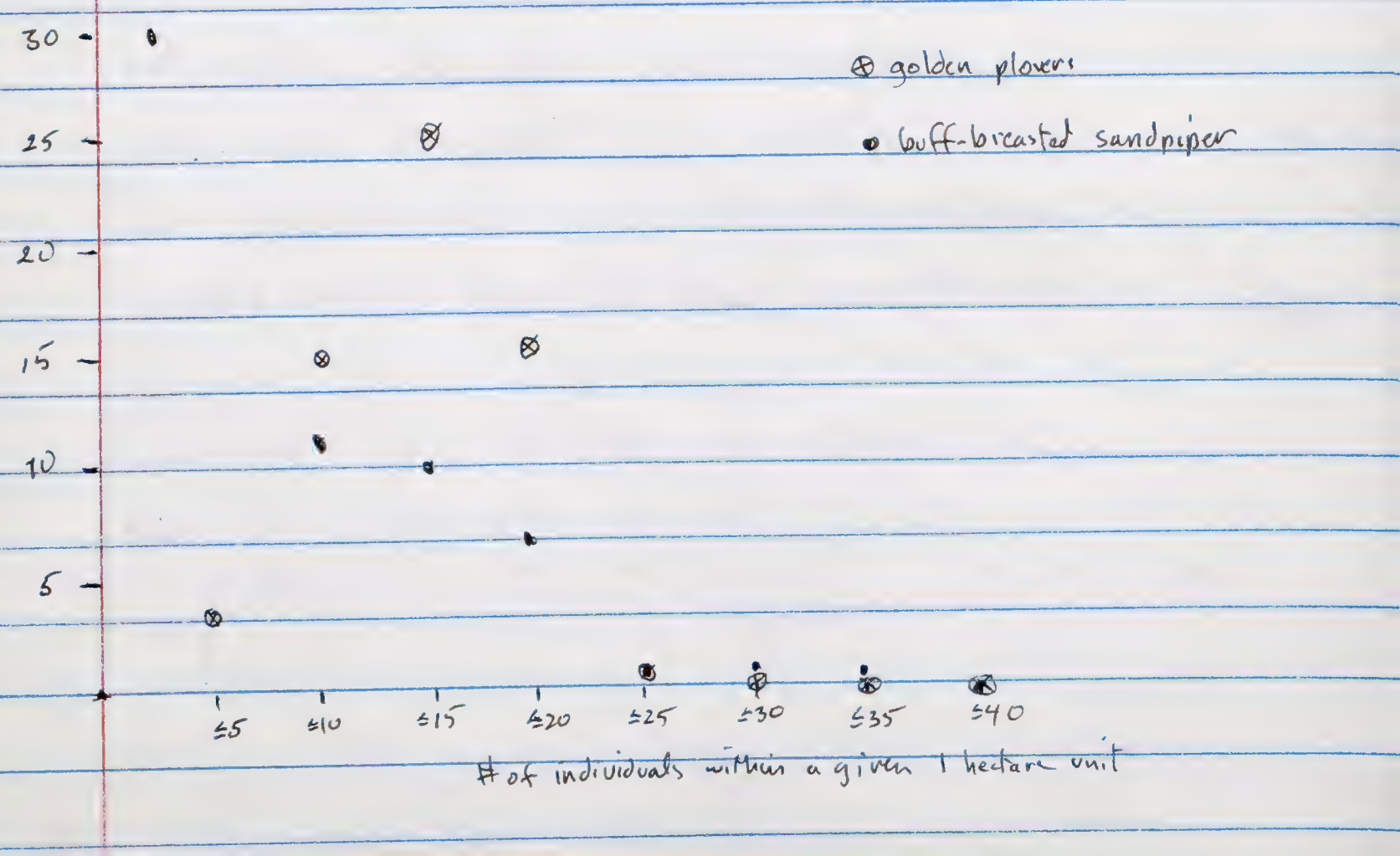
(8,11) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs Aires (see blocking accent.) As before, buffies moved to toward the roost well before sunset (1906) while the peak of golden movement was just around sunset. totals: Tryngites subruficollis 311; Calidris melanotos 2; Micropalama himantopus 3, Tringa flavipes 11; Limosa haemastica 5; Vanellus chilensis 63; Pluvialis dominica 327

Grid 15, (0,18) region Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires Argentina

19 October 0630 began taking samples from grid 15. Sunrise was at 0800, at which time T = 9°C, no wind, and 90% clouds. We continued sampling throughout the day, one sample every 2 hours, until after the 1630 sample, when rain forced us in. During the early afternoon rain began intermittently, and by 1630 it was coming down steadily. Wind picked up out of the NE by 0830, and began shifting around first to the N, then NW, and finally out of the SW. Grid totals (6 samples)

Tryngites subruficollis 76.6 (51-100) 460; Calidris bairdii 3.3 (0-7) 20; Limosa haemastica 0.3 (0-2) 2; Vanellus chilensis 7.2 (5-11) 43; Pluvialis dominica 129 (111-153) 774; Nothura maculosa 1 (0-2) 6; Speotyto cunicularia 2.5 (2-4) 15

(average, range, total)



J.P. Myers
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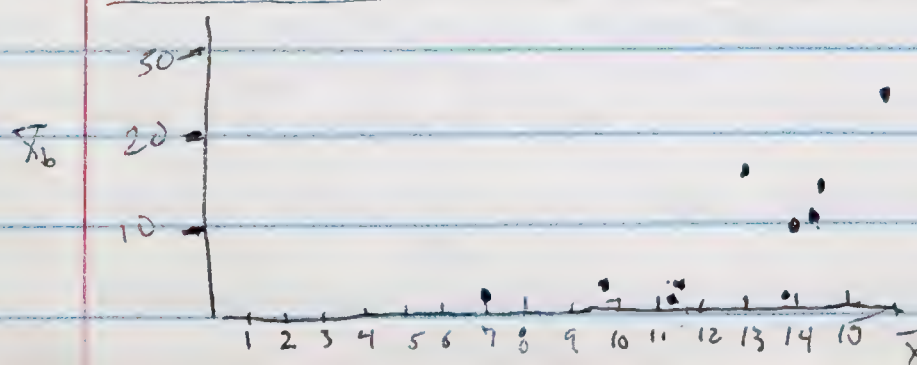
Grid 15 (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Ivancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pvcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

19 October (cont'd)

the graph shows a frequency histogram of the overall distribution of birds in the 10 sub units over 6 samples. As did the 18 October data, this set reflects a difference between goldens and buffies not only in average density but also in the evenness of the dispersion pattern. This could be a result simply of uneven habitat distribution for buffies, assuming that their preferred micro habitat is different from that of goldens and differently distributed. It could therefore by result if buffies have a denser "maximal packing" and spread out into less preferred areas only after that "maximal packing" is achieved, whereas goldens – showing a consistent tendency towards 12.15 birds / hectare – mean overall of 12.9 tolerate only lower densities, and because there are more of them, they have achieved a more ~~goldenrods~~ even dispersion, i.e. reached maximal packing in most if not all of the units. On the other hand if the evenness of golden dispersion is maintained independent of density, as the mean crowding calculation will ask (mean o means) then these simple hyp. will not suffice and one must somehow incorporate different dispersion system features into the models of the two species dispersion patterns. As the afternoon wore on, buffies appeared to be concentrating more towards the 7-8 region. Goldens, on the other hand, remained fairly even throughout the day. ~~Dark~~ Considerable buffy 'cumulative use' differences built up between different units; i.e. buffies throughout the 6 samples showed a strong tendency to restrict their presence to only a consistent subset of the ten units; goldens on the other hand, showed much less so, although they too appeared to prefer certain units. This can be seen in the following table showing mean #'s in each unit:

unit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$\bar{X}_{buffis}$	1.2	10.1	1.3	2.7	10.0	13.7	24.7	14.8	1.7	0.7
$\bar{X}_{goldens}$	7	14.5	11.2	9.8	14.0	14.5	15.3	13	11.3	13.9



JP Myers
1974

Journal

Grid 15, (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires Arg.

19 October (cont'd)

The table shows almost a 40 fold difference between mean buffie densities. However golden density varies only 2 fold. The graph below, showing the relationships between $\bar{X}_b$ and $\bar{X}_g$ reveals a strong positive correlation between the two variables. This could be a result of a number of factors: 1) both birds preferred habitat could be distributed similarly, as is certainly the case. (but why the vast difference in ranges?) 2) one species may be attracted by the presence of the other (probably true, but not always, or at least not simply, because there is golden → buffy aggression and supplanting. 3) some factor could be keeping both birds out of some areas, but operating more heavily on buffies. this is certainly true to some extent → Vanellus chases both birds out of the vicinity of nests + foraging chicks. Speotyto causes buffies + sometimes goldens to spook. Thus if we make the following table:

	subunits with - i.e. 1,2,3,9,10 Speotyto, incubating Vanellus, or Vanellus chicks nearby	subunits without i.e. 4 5 6 7 8,
$\bar{X}$ # goldens	11.6 (7-14.5)	13.3 (9.8-15.3)
$\bar{X}$ # buffies	3.0 (0.7-10.1)	13.6 (2.7-26.7)

Although I don't have the means here to test for significance, it is obvious that those subunits without Vanellus incubating or w/ chicks and/or Speotyto have greater densities of both buffies and goldens. buffy densities vary much more than do golden densities while this table shows a strong effect, I also suspect that habitat differences are also operating. The trio of subunits 1,2,3 are all a bit thicker in vegetation, possessing Distachis in addition to the Trifolium etal. associations dominating the grid. This factor should reveal itself when we take habitat measurements.

Linear grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Pdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires

20 October 0742 began sampling the linear grid. temp = 9°; slo wind, strong; clouds 30%, IVC 4000 fc. finished at 0820. Totals: C. fuscicollis 15; C bairdii, 1; Micropalama, 5; Limosa haemastica 1; Pluvialis dominica 4; Himantopus 3; Charadrius falklandicus 1, Anas georgica 9 Anas flavirostris 2

J.P. Myers
1974

Journal

20 October (cont'd)

Linear grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

the morning was remarkable for the ~~cat~~ strong S wind which piled water up from to the northern ends of most S→N legs of the Arroyo. the effect was particularly marked below the linear grid at the curve, 10,13, where water was shifted around to such an extent that there was no net downstream current. In fact the channel was bereft of all but a surface film at the driest point. It was along here that a flock of 25+ WR and Micropalama had congregated, including a recent bandee, RpLgB, banded in (22,17) on 17 Oct. Two new returnees, also (but not in this flock): RpLy and RyLyo.

(22,15) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

1700 drove to the roosting area by the second windmill in (22,15) [see journal 7 October], and immediately placed 4 mist nets spaced evenly along the length of the swamp and perpendicular to its long axis. We had some trouble putting the nets up because of a mod-strong south wind which diminished only after ~ 1845. Cloud cover during the evening ~0; temp dropped to ≤8°C. At ~1945 I began walking the area, in an attempt to spook the new roosting birds into the nets. However I found that even at that time, 45 min after sunset, the birds were able to avoid the nets if they were flying SW (i.e. toward a glowing horizon). And this they did, almost without exception. I therefore waited another 30 minutes and began pacing again, this time w/ eyes: I walked through the middle of the swamp and then walked along the border ~ 15 m from me. As I found that the birds, when they flew, still took off in the SW direction. However, I had to approach them quite closely - even with all the shooting - in order to get the fuscicollis or melanotos to fly at all. When their tendency to remain became apparent, I began using the head lamp (a weak 9 volt affair) to help spook them. Even with the light they were unwilling to leave. In fact, I was able to catch a fuscicollis by spotlighting with the headlamp and throwing my hat upon it. (WR RpLyB - see banding schedule) Anyway, despite a large number of birds using the roost, we caught only that one WR and 2 golden plovers and one pectoral. Returned to camp at 2230. The lesson of the evening is to walk the birds come in, locate their precise roosting spot, and then, after dark, walk the nets in + place them between the birds and light. Then, after a brief wait, try to spook them into the nets.

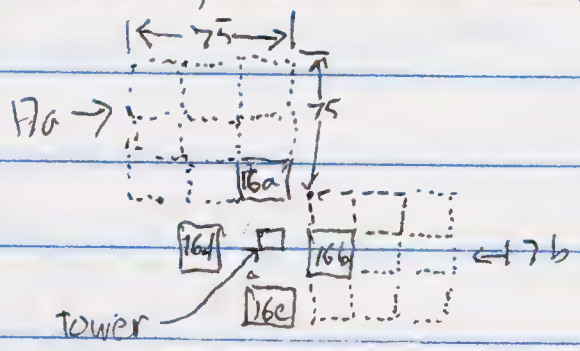
J.P. Myers
1974

Journal

The Tower, (1,18). Estancia Medaland, 35 Kms S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires Argentina

21 October

With a late start, I reached the tower this morning at 0830. Luis drove me out and then left with the car. Until 1020 I remained in the blind writing notes. At that point I began to sample grids. Since the last tower observation period (see journal, 15 October) we had placed a new series of stakes, finishing the grid 16 set and adding a new grid, 17a and 17b.



16c and 16c are identical to 16a and b; 25×25 m with 5×5 m subunits. 17a and 17b are 75×75 m with 25×25 m subunits. 16a and 16b lie within them as indicated in the diagram.

After some practice, using the stakes on 16a and b, and landmarks in the newer subunits (large cowpies, fair accuracy an anthill, armadillo diggings – very prominent indeed in this habitat) I am able to locate with ~~fair~~ accuracy a bird to within 5×5 m subunits on 17a and 17b even if they fall outside of the 16a or b limits. Thus all samples are now taking showing the position of each individual on the grid (see grid data book). After a few attempts to sample 17a and 17b concommitantly, I decided to concentrate on 17b and to record aggressive interactions in space in addition to the samples, which were taken all day at 15 min intervals. Grid totals: 17b 32 samples Tryngites subruficollis 7.0 (0-17) 224; Pluvialis dominica 4.4 (0-10) 170. No other shorebird spp. were recorded on the grids. During the morning grid 17b was the scene of considerable instances of supplanting; these were largely limited to several areas (see aggression site chart). At 1330 everyone spooked, many congregated in 17a (for which I have 2 readings at 5 min intervals) but within 20 minutes what appeared to be literally all the buffies and most of the Pluvialis from the (1,18) region – i.e. the considerable radius of vision that I have from atop the tower, – flew toward the arroyo. They began reappearing in doubles & 45 minutes later – small flocks of buffies and other flocks, but mostly solitary, golden. The first buffies reappeared on 17b at ~1523 and I immediately picked them up

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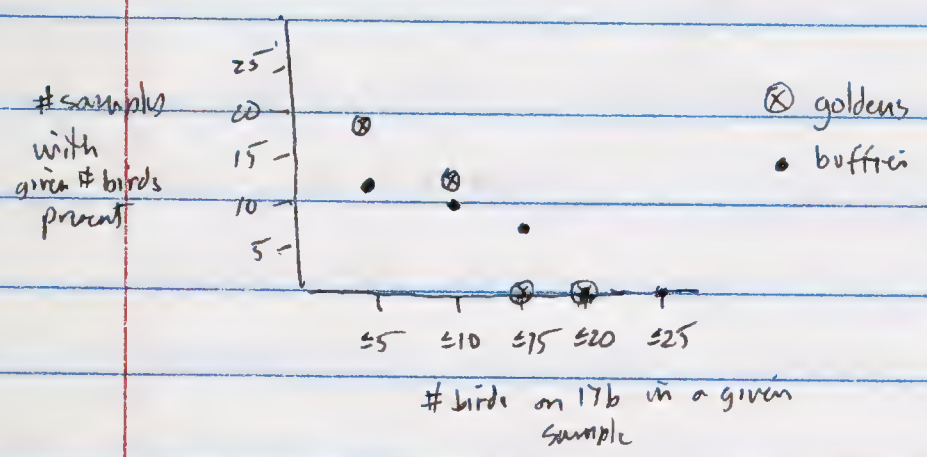
21 October (cont'd)

The Tower (1/16) Estancia Middle Camp, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Prov. de Buenos Aires Argentina

up in the 1530 sample. The pattern of usage changed to a much less aggressive one during the afternoon. In some areas I continued to note occasional instances of aggression. However by and large the buffies on the grid in the afternoon were foraging in directional flocks.



During both morning and afternoon sessions, Pluvialis was very territorial. For all samples taken during the days on 17b I have computed a measure of the dispersion of the birds in terms of their departure from random dispersion. The ratio is $\frac{s^2}{\bar{x}}$ from Lloyd's article on mean crowding, s^2 being the mean number of individuals in a subunit squared per individual and $\bar{x}$ being the mean/unit area. A $\frac{s^2}{\bar{x}}$ value of 1 indicates random dispersion. Values exceeding one indicate a clumped or patchy dispersion, and <1 indicates an even dispersion. The following table presents mean values and ranges computed for buffies and goldens during the morning and afternoon.

	morning (11 samples)	afternoon (12 samples)
buffies	1.81 (0.76 - 5.5)	2.79 (1.1 - 6.67)
goldens	0.48 (0 - 1.0)	0.83 (0 - 1.78)

Note that the samples for which the means were computed cannot be regarded as truely independent. In a graph of $\frac{s^2}{\bar{x}} = f(\text{time of sample})$, one feature stands out. (the graph is not shown here, see grid data book). Buffies rhythmically move in and out of a clumped dispersion. The period appears to vary, but, eyeballing the graph, there appear to be definite oscillations - alternations between periods when the birds were largely clumped (peaks on the $\frac{s^2}{\bar{x}}$ graph) and when they were largely dispersed. In the afternoon, buffies tended to be more clumped than they were in the morning. Recall that observations in qualitative terms noted directional flocks in the afternoon but more

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Tower, (1,15 region), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.

21 October (cont'd)

space-specificity in the morning. Golden also showed oscillations but they were no where nearly as pronounced. However, both species increased in $\frac{\sigma^2}{\bar{x}}$ in the late afternoon. If we ask whether, in time over the whole unit - i.e. treating 17b as a given time as a subunit, the whole of which is 17b throughout the day - to what extent are buffies and goldens clumped, $\frac{\sigma^2}{\bar{x}}$ values are 1.34 for buffies and 1.27 for goldens. In other words, both species tend to aggregate in time on the subunit slightly more than random, but not differently from one another. this is to be expected, given that both species move in and out of the general area in flocks, but local movements occur in small groups &/or individuals. goldens and buffies appear to get to the foraging area in a similar fashion, but once there, disperse differently. We remained until the birds took off at 1817, took an 1830 sample (no birds) and left.

I am afraid that for some reason buffies are not using the 5x5 m staked units (i.e. grid 16). One possible factor is the pair of Kiskadee flycatchers which are building a nest on the tower. I became aware of the fact that they were a disturbing influence several days ago, when I saw them (while running Grid 15) perched on the tower and flying out after goldens and buffies when the shorebirds caught anything which took more than a second or two to digest. Both species will fly from Kiskadees (as does Oreophilus). When we are in the tower, on occasion the Kiskadees have used the grid 16 stakes as perches. I therefore have removed the beginnings of the nest several times from the tower, and may be forced to collect the Kiskadees.

22 October

We reached the tower this morning at 0615, before any buffies were in the area. However, Pluvialis were already present in the grid. Sampling began at 0645 and continued until 1130. - 8 on 17a and 14 on 17b.

totals: 17a Buff-breasted sandpiper 14 (8-18) 112; Golden plover 6.4 (4-10) 51. 17b Bb-spiper 9.0 (2-15) 126; G. plover 5.8 (5-8) 82. No clouds throughout the morning temp increased from 9°C at 0645 to 17.5° at 1100. wind came up during the latter part of the sampling session. As yesterday, examination of $\frac{\sigma^2}{\bar{x}} = f(\text{time})$ revealed oscillations in the Tryngites dispersion pattern: the birds appeared to fluctuate in and from an under-dispersed state into a nearly random pattern (over even slightly over dispersed) and

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Tower, (1,15) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Maderiaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires

22 October (cont'd)

then back to the under-dispersed condition. Unfortunately the morning's observation period was too short to reveal whether the oscillations are truely cyclic, although the graph (see data book) certainly suggests it, with a period (if I can be permitted to call it that) of ~ 1 hour from peak clumping to peak clumping. Unfortunately, the tape commentary which was to accompany the $\hat{f}$(trins) plot disappeared beneath a linear grid reading. Hence, possible external factors influencing the changes are unknown, except for one definite spooking which occurred at 1045 on 17b. Here, the $\frac{\hat{m}}{\bar{x}}$ (for buffies) shot up from 1.74 at 1030 to 4.9 at 1045. However, the buffies quickly dispersed to an overdispersed value (0.87) at 1100. I examined the possibility that $\frac{\hat{m}}{\bar{x}}$ (buffies) was affected by the % of birds feeding but using a scatter diagram and eye-balling (the only possible here in the field) found no strong effect. It does appear that, except when spooked, $\frac{\hat{m}}{\bar{x}}$ (buffie) decreases with increasing density (using data from 10-21 and 10-22 and an eyeballed scatter diagram). In other words, if there are few birds ($\bar{x} < 0.4$ birds/(625 m^2)) they are likely to be very clumped. However with larger groups the dispersion achieves a more even effect. For this there are many possible explanations. However, in order to understand the temporal process involved I must take extensive quantitative info. on the events in the area (grid + surrounds), take grid data over smaller time intervals (is it possible?) and supplement the material with quantitative info on feeding rates, aggression rates, etc., during the falling and rising phases of the dispersion pattern.

linear grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Pdo de Maderiaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.

23 October

ran linear grid beginning at 0705. few birds - totals. Calidris fuscicollis 17; Micropalama himantopus 6; Tringa flavipes 1, Tringa melanoleuca 1, Charadrius falklandicus 1, Himantopus 2, Larus maculipennis 2, Anas georgica 2, Anas flavirostris 1. Running back down totals: Calidris fuscicollis 54, Calidris bairdii 2, Micropalama, 15 Limosa haemastica 5, Tringa flavipes 6, Pluvialis dominica 1, Charadrius falklandicus <1, Himantopus 4 .14, Larus maculipennis 1, Steganopus tricolor 1, Sterna trudeavi 2, Anas georgica 7, Anas flavirostris 10. 3 banded white rumps from last year plus 1 WR and 1 Falklandicus from this year.

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Linear grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Pdo. de Madariaga, Prov. de Bs. Aires, Argentina

3 November

We have been away from the estancia since 24 October, and according to the residents it has not rained here since we left. It looks as much - the arroyo is a bare trickle in many places, although elsewhere it has risen not shown horizontally. Dawn this morning at ~0545. I began reading the linear grid at 0629 - a slight NE wind was up, temp = 17°C, clouds 40% and an IVL of ~2000 ft.

grid totals: Calidris fuscicollis 31 (!), Calidris bairdii 3, Calidris melanotos 1, Arenaria interpres* 1, Tringa melanoleuca 1, Limosa haemastica 1, Tringa flavipes 2, Vanellus chilensis 1, Pluvialis dominica 6, Charadrius falklandicus 2, Ch. collaris 1, Himantopus h. 8, Anas georgica 5, Anas flavirostris 2. The remarkable feature of today's grid reading was the large number of sandpipers and the species diversity. In addition to the number of fuscicollis present, the sample was remarkable for the number of territorial fuscicollis which I saw while doing it. By the time that I had finished the sample (0715) the wind had shifted to east of the N and grown in strength to moderate. Running down totals: Calidris fuscicollis 31, 79 (110) [on grid subunits 13, between]; C. bairdii 5, 13 (18); C. melanotos 1, 2 (3); Macropalama 1, 2 (3) Tryngites 1, 1 (2); [total] Limosa haemastica 1, 6 (7); Tringa flavipes 1, 4 (5); Vanellus chilensis 0, 1 (1); Pluvialis dominica 2, 7 (9); Charadrius falklandicus 1, 2 (3); Charadrius collaris 1, 0 (1); Himantopus 3, 5 (8); Steganopus tricolor 2, 1 (3); Anas georgica 16, 0 (16); Anas flavirostris 8, 0 (8); Larus maculipennis 0, 3 (3). 5 old banded LBG, one from this year (see resighting sheet). During the count I found territorial WR on 10+, 10, 10-9, 9, 8, 4-3, 3 and 3-2 (see running down data sheet).

general note. In the mid afternoon (~1330) a violent windstorm developed, quickly cooling down the excessive temperatures recorded during early afternoon (30°C+). It developed into a lengthy thunderstorm. At some time during late afternoon winds reached sufficient velocity to tear the blind off of the tower placed in the 1, 8 region. Oh well. When we found it the next afternoon it was heeled mil pedazos totaled. Every wood knot in the frame had found a way to break. I only hope that it fell on top of a cow. The storm produced a minuscule quantity of rain.

4 November

The storm continues, still without rain but sufficient wind to fill any sail. We arrived at subunit 7 of the linear grid at 0734 and began sampling. Cloud cover was low and heavy, there were a slight drizzle, and strong S wind.

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Linear grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Francisco Source, Ptdo de Maciarias, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

4 November (cont'd)

I was surprised that the storm continued, especially as yesterday it began as a summer thunderstorm out of the NW. But the temperature dropped to 13° and the wind shifted to due south. In fact it blew all day today. This had a remarkable effect upon the distribution of H_2O, w-rump foraging habitat, and white-rumps in the Arroyo. The linear grid count contained 45 birds, ~~w~~ white-rumps over half of which were on subunit 1. There was another concentration of fuscicollis between subunits 7 and 8. And, above the linear grid, in v(5,25) there was a third concentration. Although individuals and small groups could be found all along the linear grid, an overwhelming majority were to be found in these 3 areas. The locations were notable because in common they shared one characteristic: all 3 lie at the south end of a lengthy N→S running stretches of the arroyo, and they because of local topography, all are structured such that a strong S wind, coming on top of low pre-existing low water conditions, blows the water upstream. And because of natural 'dams' at those water levels, water to the S of these stretches is prevented from filling the void created. Therefore expanses of newly exposed bottom and new areas of low water are made available for foraging. It serves, in effect, as a slow tide. Thus the storm introduced a fair degree of temporal instability to the arroyo, shifting (probably) areas of maximal foraging efficiency. Yet despite this 'instability' an incredible amount of space-specific aggression was occurring during our observations. Whatever interpretation is to be made, it is complicated by the fact that there was a large influx of birds into the area - at least 100 WR mono's, most in a different plumage than the mono-gray that the local populations had developed (our WR sp. accent - I suspect they are juvenile).

Linear grid totals: Calidris fuscicollis 45; Calidris bairdii 10; Micropalama himantopus 1; Limosa haemastica 2; Tringa flavipes 4; Charadrius falklandicus 1; Himantopus 4. 2.

Returning to the question of stability: while I said that the storm had introduced a 'fair' degree of instability - that 'fair' is only in relation to the Arroyo, not to a good tidal mud flat like

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4 November (cont'd)

Linear grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Meddland, 35 Km S. of Tres Arroyos by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina
Punta Rasa. Everywhere along the Arroyo (i.e. at any point), could be found appropriate WR habitat, although some of it - the newly exposed areas - was apparently better than others. And 4 hours after the morning grid count there was still a large large flock (indeed larger than it had been) on subunit 1. Thus the instability was small in comparison to a tidal mudflat where the location of optimum foraging might shift several hundred meters on an outgoing tide.
If for a moment, we consider the dispersion of the habitat, it would appear intuitively obvious that the 'dammed' areas represented pockets of extremely favorable habitat, and thus I suspect that were a measure of the dispersion of optimal WR habitat along the arroyo available it would reflect considerable aggregation in an underdispersed pattern relative to that which it usually is. In common $\frac{s^2}{\bar{x}}$ for the WR sample this morning was 3.4 This compares with ~~[illegible]~~ values of ~1.7 for the last 2 samples. Thus WR were very patchily distributed, as was their habitat. However there was considerable space-specific aggression, and a degree of habitat instability (but not 'excessive'). Space ~~[illegible]~~ from the "hundred birds" I flushed [illegible] the muddy water of the banks. I must say that my first reaction to this morning's dispersion - before looking at the bird's behavior - was that the weird had broken down the territorial system. That it did, if one limits the 'territorial system' to that precise dispersion as found on 3 November, i.e. the same set of territories. But the birds were obviously at work at defining new territories in the new areas. [note - muddy banks prevented me from running down.]

Grid 14 (10,13) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Meddland, 35 Km S. of Tres Arroyos by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.
1600 drove from camp out to the arroyo area and stopped at the observation point for grid 14. The change in habitat between this morning and now is striking: this morning this had been one of the 'dammed' sites, with the water blown off of it to the north. Although the wind still continues unabated, water has covered the area which this morning was prime habitat. What happened was that the 'dam' gave way or at least the water below the dam reached such a high level that the area was flooded and the water made it past the dammed site. When we arrived at 16 20 there were still over 100 birds in the immediate area but instead of using and living on the now flooded bottom they were living the sides, spread from grid 12 (below grid 14) to well above subunit 1 of the linear grid. Amazing. And their space-specific behavior continues. Among

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4 November (cont'd)

Grid 14 area (10,13) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Tornquist by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires

many others, RoLrB was defending an area on grid 14 However, there are also non-s.s. individuals. Ulc (Lois + I) remained at ~~Medaland~~ Grid 14 until 1800, taking samples and following data. Grid totals (8 samples) White-rumps sandpiper average 18 (15-23) 144; Micropalama – (0-1) 1; lesser yellowlegs 0.38 (0-2) 3; Black-necked stilt – (0-1) 1. White rumps ~~were~~ showed dispersion values of 0.8 – 1.6 with an average of 1.18. Territories, in the process of formation obviously, were quite small, usually only a 3-4 m stretch of shoreline. Both old and new plumage types were engaged in both s-s and non ss behavior. During the sampling period the habitat continued to fill up as water rose.

5 November.

We had intended today to ~~test~~ make a % ter. buffy calculation on a grid we had placed last evening. But a non-starting car prevented us from getting to the site on time. Therefore we returned to the Grid 14 area ~~and~~ in order to run a % ter. We ~~calculated~~ calculation three. Began censusing at 0800 and at the same time I began recording time, location and topography of aggression on the grid (we limited observations to the nearest units (1,n) → (7,n).) Lois took following data on several birds including RoLrB which was here again this morning. Observations continued until 1100. We then began taking habitat measurements, doing so for the remainder of the day. The usage pattern on the grid had changed somewhat from yesterday a large drop in WR density. ($\bar{x} = 5.2$) Water level has dropped considerably also, but not so far as it ~~also~~ had by yesterday morning (as opposed to a high last night – see journal.) At the beginning of the observation period there was a slight S wind, and temperature was ~ 5°C. Both increased during the day, temps reaching 25°C and the wind becoming moderate. No clouds. During the observation period a maximum of 3 territorial birds, one being RoLrB, were on the area. Calculations (mean % of 10 censuses) revealed a % territorial bird value = 43.7%; ranging from 17 – 100%. The other two territorial birds were not banded, and did not always remain on the grid. As a result, I ~~re~~counted them as territorial only if they had been behaving s-space-specifically whenever a bird entered their territories during the previous 10 minutes

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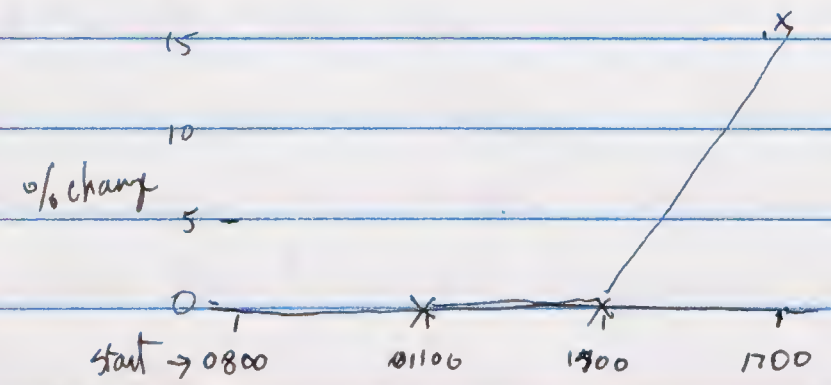
5 November (cont'd)

Grid 14, (10,13) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Pto de Mallarinos, Prov de Bs. Aires Arg

this means that the % value may be slightly low. It also reveals differences in degree of space-specificity between them and RoLrB, which remained on the territory throughout - even when all the rest of the flock spooked and flew. Incidentally, I think it significant that RoLrB and other birds were territorial this morning on the grid, and that the density is lower (+ territories much larger). ~~[illegible]~~ than it was last night - when RoLrB and others were territorial. Time produces an expansion of territory and a reduction in density. or vice-versa. Or both. ??
See WR spp. accent re observations. During the afternoon we took habitat data ~~and~~ (dispersion of micro-habitat of wk unys) and continued to measure the stability of the habitat as we'd begun this morning. During the day the periphery of the water gradually dried and the shore line ~~edges~~ receded. Barely. In most places there was no more than 30 cm recession during the whole day, caused by a maximum water drop of 2 cm. 2 larger areas were uncovered and dried, but they are small with respect to the total available habitat ($< 5 m^2$).
temporal stability plot will look something like this.



Admittedly a crude measure, it is generated by asking, for each one of the 30 .5x5m subunits, whether there is appropriate WR habitat contained within at each of the sample times ~~Every sample~~ % change is calculated by asking for each sample ~~at~~ what % of the units differ w/ respect to the 'answer' (yes-no) ~~for~~ obtained during the starting time sample. Can you do any better? Habitat measurements were marred somewhat by the fact that it took us 5 hours (steady) to complete them. Thus there was some change. But I don't think that it altered appreciably the results.

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Grid 14, Arroyo Chico (10,13), Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

6 November (cont'd) The habitat data manipulation has yet to be done. Visually, the unit is a typical part of the Arroyo, except for the presence of several islands. So certainly there is a 'special effects' type of patchiness present - i.e. there are chunks of dirt spotting the water (see diagram in % hab. calculations). It remains to be seen how patchily distributed is appropriate work habitat.

Linear grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

6 November 0615 went to linear grid. sunrise at 0542 at which time temp = 5°C. Wind picked up to slight W at 0615. 5% clouds. Linear grid totals: Calidris fuscicollis 42; Calidris bairdii 1; Limosa haemastica 5; Tringa flavipes 2; Pluvialis dominica 3; Charadrius falklandicus 2; Haematopus h. 4; Steganopus tricolor 1; Anas georgicus 3; Larus maculipennis 1. fuscicollis was very evenly distributed along the grid with a $\frac{\text{var}}{\bar{x}} = 0.76$. Lack of windward, receding water produced (at least for the eye) an even dispersion of habitat as well. Because of time considerations, we put off running down the linear grid until after running grid 15:

Grid 15, (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina.

Today is our first reading of grid 15 since returning to Medaland on 3 November. In several places it is obviously more ragged (the grass, that is). Sample went off without a hitch. Wind mod from SW, 5% clouds. totals. Buffby 74 (0-14); Golden Plover 121 (6-19); Baird's s. 7 (0-6); Vanellus chilensis 16 (0-4); Speotyto 2 (0-2)

See grid 15 data book for results.

Linear Grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.

By 0830 we were back at subunit 1 of the linear grid prepared to read up (instead of down), counting shorebirds and recording sightings of banded birds. Totals: Calidris fuscicollis on 23, between 62 (85) total; C. bairdii 4, 7 (11); Limosa haemastica 3, 4 (7). Tringa flavipes 1, 4 (5); Arenaria interpres 1, 0 (1); Pluvialis dominica 6, 4 (10); Charadrius falklandicus 0, 3 (3);

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Linear grid Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

6 November (cont'd)

Vanellus chilensis 1,0(1); Stegarnopus tricolor 1,5(6); Himantopus h. 4,13(17); Chauna torquata 1,0(1); Anas flavirostris 2,0(2); Anas georgicus 2,5(7); Larus maculipennis 7,5(12)

In summary for the linear grid reading of this morning and this running up — the difference between todays' WR dispersion pattern and that of 4 November is ~~extr~~ considerable. Today they are evenly spaced almost along the whole length of the arroyo. Everywhere was evidence of territoriality - much supplanting. There are few groups of birds, although there were some. RyLrg[A] which had been territorial on 11-3 and between subunits 9 and 10 and then[Ind] switched to sub 8-7 on 11-4, was back between sub 9-10 today, RyLyy also switched back, although I had no indication of its territoriality RyLyg did the same. If anything, the dispersion of optimal habitat along the arroyo today is much more even than it was 4 Nov. The birds are also even, and they are territorial.

(8 11) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

1800 began counting flying shorebirds from position used 9 October and 18 October. See Flock account. Weather during the day has been overcast - a moderate NE wind has blown continuously, cloud cover remained below 10%, temperature risen to ≤25°C. Temperature at 1800 = ~~20~~ 18.5°C. We counted until 1945 at which time light intensity fell below 1 fc. totals: Tryngites subruficollis 651 (+ 360 spooked); Calidris fuscicollis 11; C. bairdii 2; Limosa haemastica 24; Tringa sp, 0; Vanellus chilensis, 62; Pluvialis dominica ~~29~~, 278 (+292 spooked); Himantopus h.: 1. temperature at 1745 = 12°C. It began to look as if another thunderstorm was forming, advancing from the S. however, it never developed. Sunset at ~1927 (obscured by clouds). There was some variability introduced into the count by the fact that 2 horse riders working taking sheep through a prime upland unit of habitat on the western side of the Arroyo, and later they passed along the road, going to the farmhouse. Large flocks flew in front of them. These were tallied separately in the flock account. If the spooked flocks are separated from the main body of 6 fluffy flocks, and the latter plotted

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(B,11) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs Aires, Argentina

6 November (cont'd)

the resultant figure shows a peak of buffy roosting flights at 1900-1905, rising smoothly beginning ~ at 1820 but dropping sharply after until 1920. Goldens, on the other hand, a much more spread out, and in fact show 2 peaks - 1910-1920 and 1930-1940. Both species retained approximately the same relationship between period of peak movement and time at which the sun set (when compared to 10-18-74 data): buffies peaked 20-30 minutes before sunset whereas goldens were moving around sunset.

(12,19) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Gral J. Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

7 November

Before sunrise drove to the newly placed quasi-grid upland from submit 6-7 of the linear grid in Arroyo Chico. Call it Grid 18. Grid 18 is placed in typical upland short-grass habitat in a field bordered on the west by the Arroyo and the east by a lower area of Distachlis. The gridded area is 50m x 50m, and was placed in order to allow a calculation of % territorial buffies. Thus, only enough stakes were placed so as to allow an observer to visualize the limits of the area and to provide scale. When I arrived at 0520, I found that almost 50% of the stakes (placed 4 Nov.) had been pulled. I therefore had to replace them, and while doing so saw the morning's influx of buffies. Unfortunately, they saw me, as well, and things never returned to normal. I remained until ~0815, but then left when it was overly apparent that I was to continue to be a disturbing influence. The flock spooked several times, were very wagile, and never consistent in their space relations, although several times it looked as if they were going to settle down. From the observation post (in the blind atop the car) I could see territorial supplantations by Tryngites further out (far out?). Sunrise at the sun came above the horizon this am. at 0537 temperature = 11°C. Slight E wind developing to wind by 0800 and swinging to the west (cloud cover ~80%. See buffie sp. ment

Linear grid, Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Gral. J. Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

8 November

After placing the patched-up blind again atop the car we drove to the linear grid, beginning to sample at 0903. Temperature this morning at 0530 = 8°; at 0900 = 17°C. Wind Light E. Clouds = 40%. The arroyo this morning has slowed to a bare trickle, in some places almost stopped, less than 1m across and ≤ 2cm deep. As a result (and in

JP Myers
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Linear grid, Arroyo Clivio, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juarez by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provin de Buenos Aires, Argentina

8 November (cont'd)

combination into the fact of the damming effect which appears in the arroyo at low water levels, there are areas exposed to WR which are probably of a better quality than the usual edge along the water. That is, a flat expanse of silt, freshly exposed by the falling water, become available. Grid totals: Calidris fuscicollis 13; C. bairdii 5; C. melanotos 1; Limosa haemastica 2; Tringa flavipes 3; Tringa melanoleuca 1; Himantopus h. 7; Vanellus chilensis 1; Charadrius falklandicus 2; Pluvialis dominica 3; Anas georgica 2.

Running down linear grid totals: C. fuscicollis 72; C. bairdii 6; C. melanotos 1; Limosa haemastica 5; Tringa flavipes 8; Tringa melanoleuca 1; Vanellus chilensis 3; Pluvialis dominica 12; Ch. falklandicus 7; Ch. semipalmatus 1; Himantopus h. 14; Cinclodes fuscus 4; Anas georgicus 7; Anas flavirostris 4; Larus maculipennis 3. After completing this latter sample, we continued down the arroyo to the fence at (7,13) surveying flocks for banded birds. There, we turned around, and again began repeating the linear grid, whose status have been depleted by horses and cows. After completing this, we put in a traffic grid at (13,21) for % ter. bird calculations, and also surveyed the local traffic and golden flocks. During the morning and afternoon we also took microhabitat data for Tryngites, fuscicollis, falklandicus, melanotos, Tringa f. and Pluvialis. Finally at 1915 we returned to camp. Throughout the day cloud cover never rose above 10%, the wind was light to moderate, continuous out of the east temperatures rose to ~23°C but by late afternoon (1800) had dropped to 16°C.

(13,21) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provin de Bs. Aires Argentina

9 November

0525 arrived at quasi-grid 19, which we had placed yesterday afternoon in order to facilitate a calculation of % territorial Tryngites. The whole grid measures 100 x 100 m and is divided into 16 25x25 m subunits with strategically placed stakes at other points in order to allow more precise position determination. The grid lies in a uniform (to the eye) expanse of typical short-grass traffic habitat where in the past we have invariably found Tryngites (this year). I limited my attention to a 75m x 75m portion of the grid, choosing an area with a maximal number of Tryngites present. During the first hour temp = 6° at 0500

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9 November (cont'd)

(13,21) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

I watched only a 50×50 m sub-portion, but censuses during that period showed too few birds were included, so I expanded the area of focus. From 0640 – 0810 I merely censused the area, familiarizing myself with the local terrain, the birds, and at the same time recording all instances of space-specific aggression as to form, location and time. From 0810 to 0940, 10 minute censuses were broken down into two groups – total buffis and the number of those showing space-specific aggression (i.e. territorial). Bouts of s-s. aggression were continued. see buffis sp. accent. An average of 47% of birds present on the grid during each census were territorial. Numbers were small, ranging from 2-7 total and 1-2 territorial. Three territories impinged upon the grid, one of which lay almost entirely within, and occupied an amazing ~1550 m². Frequency of aggression dropped sharply as the morning went on, & at least partially because during the early hours several (at least 2) buffis were behaving territorially in an area which later was used only by a directional flock. After completing the % ter. bird calculation, I tried unsuccessfully to collect the Tryngites which had occupied the large central territory. Wind increased during the morning from 0 (in pre dawn to a light E breeze, clouds a constant 0. Low mist which burned off by 0630

Grid 15, (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

10 November

began a sample of Grid 15 at 0650 – light E wind, t=18°C, clouds 30%. The cloud cover, all on the southern horizon was sufficiently similar to previous formations which had resulted in afternoon thundershowers for me to make that prediction at dawn – high and continuous cumulus hanging low to the sand burst combined with high early morning temperatures. On the grid, shorebird density showed a disturbing drop, not only in Tryngites but also Pluvialis totals: Tryngites subruficollis 54 ($\frac{\text{obs}}{\text{exp}} = 1.22$); Pluvialis dominica 109 ($\frac{\text{obs}}{\text{exp}} = 1.04$). Vanellus chilensis 5; Speotyto cunicularia 2. Two possible explanations for the decline in migrant sb's: first, on our way to the grid, we saw large flocks of Tryngites, totaling well over 100 birds, in the (4,14) – (5,14) region. This flock has been building but today the numbers were remarkable. This area lies between the 1,18 region where Grid 15 is, and the known Tryngites roosts. Secondly,

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Grid 15, (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

10 November (contd) for the first time, this morning we saw significant #'s of Tryngites and Pluvialis continuing on in flights westward over the road into a newly finished, planted field. In other words, there are areas to desert the 1,18 region for. I did note, however, that I was seeing many more cases of supplantation by Tryngites on Grid 15 this morning, suggesting that % T bird is up. Here 3 things are possible, it would seem: 1) that the increased incidence of supplantation bears no relation to reduction in density of Tryngites, 2) that it is the cause of it, and 3) that it is the result of it. I suspect that if anything it is both a cause and a result. Rained 30 mm during the night

Grid Tower Grids, (1,18) region, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

12 November 0600 → 1820 in tower taking baffle grid data. Weather at dawn 12°C, low 100% clouds and fog, moderate southwind. See Tryngites sp. accent for running commentary on events in grid 17b. It was a very long day with weather conditions essentially constant throughout. Grid totals (on 17b): Tryngites subruficollis 10.8 (5-29) 527 (average, range, total); Pluvialis dominica 5.2 (0-27) 245. These totals represent only those samples taken at the regular 15 min intervals. In addition, there are 2 samples of spooked baffles (baffle only) with 12 and 26 birds on the grid. (There are several spooked pts within the main series.) The general picture of the Tryngites situation today can be summarized: a solid core of 5-8 constantly territorial birds with territories either completely, or on partially on 17b, plus a group of ~5 which showed considerable dep space specificity in aggression and foraging, more in mid and late morning and early afternoon than in early morning or late afternoon (also some birds moving in/out). The calculation of $(\frac{m}{x})_b$ showed fluctuations in time as it has in the past. Running commentary (see Tryngites sp. accent) plus recording of all instances of baffle aggression from 0615 - 1500 suggests that the peaks in $(\frac{m}{x})_b$ are spook induced usually, but sometimes not, and that peaks are quickly reduced via an increase in aggression. See grid 17b data book for $(\frac{m}{x})_b$ data and aggression material. We also have Pluvialis and Tryngites following data from tower area grids, as well as baffle pecking data. See Grid 16 data book.

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires.

13 November 0701 began reading the linear grid. This morning the weather which began the 10th

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Linear Grid Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires

13 November (cont'd) of November and continued today, a low heavy cloud cover with occasional drizzle. Accumulated 5 mm during the morning. Grid totals: C. fuscicollis 12; C. bairdii 3; Limosa haemastica 2; Tringa flavipes 1; Vanellus chilensis 1; Pluvialis dominica 5; Charadrius falklandicus 1; Himantopus h. 1; Anas flavirostris 2; Anas georgicus 6. The strong S wind, which has picked up since yesterday created arroyo conditions very similar to those created 4 November by a similar but even stronger wind. Thus there were flocks of WR at 10,13 in the Arroyo, between subunits 7-8, and above the linear grid in (~15,25) exactly as there were 4 November. After running the grid I collected ~~three~~ two non-territorial Tryngites (172-173) from (13,23) and 2 territorial WR from (15,25), sex respectively

(17,28) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Pdo. de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 November Left camp in pre-dawn hours with the intent of beginning calculations for another fuscicollis % territorial bird calculation. However as the light increased the weather turned ominous, dark billowy cumulus piled to the SW, from where the wind came. Dawn itself was one of the red-dest I have ever seen here. Evening morning temperatures ran 11-13°C. So upon reaching Tower Clump I decided to take microhabitat data and to collect a territorial fuscicollis before being forced in by the rain. But the weather developed contrary to my expectations. By 0830, after a period of ~25 min during which it rained 5 mm at the farm house, the bulk of the storm had sidled over, leaving a dark mass still to the WNW, but one which contained NE only without dumping upon us. Accordingly, I parked the car by a previously chosen site and began the % ter. WR calculation process. The unit of habitat chosen lies in a fairly typical stretch of Arroyo where I have seen numbers of fuscicollis foraging in both space-specific and n.s.s. fashion. The stream bed is ~10 m wide at the narrowest part here, with a broad overbank on the N edge where a spit of water extends several meters in the upstream direction away from the main body, leaving a narrow cape of saturated mud running down the center of the grid in that portion. I took micro data after three early AM face

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(17,28) Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Tuancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

17 November (cont'd)

micro-habitat data book) See WR spp. accent for a description of events on the unit, and also the % ten. bird calculation book, determination #3. In brief, the dispersion made prevalent on the unit was unsettled - a majority of the birds did not have territories, but a % of those birds did at times behave as if they were establishing them. One bird held a well-established territory, 11-17-74 A from which it supplanted fairly consistently, though with occasional lapses. Supplantations were of an obvious s-s. nature. At various times other birds were consistent about other areas, indeed they began contesting borders with 11-17-74 A. The number of such birds increased toward the end of the sample period, reaching a total (including 11-17-74 A) of 4 territorial birds. Censuses were made every 10 minutes from 0830 - 1110, 17 in total. There were an average of 15.5 fuscicollis/sample (range = 9-26) During the first 10 censuses I noted the % of birds present which were behaving in a spaz specific fashion. These averaged 16%. Area of the unit was 9000 m², being 15 x 60 m. Because of the state of flux in the WR system, I decided to postpone measuring habitat variables until I could calculate a/o TB on a subsequent morning in order to look for change. By the end of the observation period (1110) cloud cover reduced considerably, to under 30%, but the N wind continued at a moderate intensity.

Tower Llanos, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Prov. de Bs. Aires

Mid afternoon (~1545) we came to Tower Llanos in order to take buffy microhabitat data and then, during the evening, count roosting flights. Birds during the first hour were extremely spooky, however by 1630 we found a group of tolerant Tryngites and got a good series of data. It looked as if there were some territorial buffies established in the (12,15) region, particularly along the edge of the Arroyo (see sp. accent). Then at 1800 we began counting flying birds from the usual (8,11) observation post. See flocking account. Scattered clouds reduced IVL readings during the first 45 minutes but there was a gradual

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Estancia Medaland
Tower Llanos, 35 Km ~~K~~ S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Arg.

17 November (cont'd)

clearing until at sunset (1936) cloud cover was under 20%. In the llanos around the observation post was a flock of foraging, supplanting Tryngites. Thus for the first time in these roost counts Tryngites has a low but finite based rate of flying during the pre-roost hours. The importance of these birds in the total count is exaggerated because the total #s of buffies was down considerable. Why, I ~~have~~ know not — observation conditions were excellent, and I know that buffies still abound in usual foraging areas, although there have been some shifts. It was obvious, however, that we were not placed anylonger along a major flight path to the roosts. One clue may have been provided by the fact that I spotted flocks going down on the other side of the troops in an area which was just sowed with ~~corn~~ CORN — a place where they could now be conceivably roosting. Totals observed: Tryngites subruficollis 506; Calidris fuscicollis 22; Calidris bairdii 1; Micropalama him = antopus 21; Limosa haemastica 38; Tringa s. l.; Vanellus chilensis 14; Pluvialis dominica 313; Steganopus tricolor 2. See Tryngites sp. account re possible function of early roosting times of buffies.

(10,0) to (23,15), Estancia Medaland, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

18 November

Sigh — it rained this morning, enough to make roads impassable but not enough to replenish the marshes. 20 mm accumulated. A strong NW wind and much electrical dramatics. So we weren't able to get to 17,28 for a continuation of the wk's TB calculations begun there yesterday. 1000 we drove from the farmhouse to the NW as far as the 2nd windmill, taking microhabitat data on various species and reviewing areas. In general, the area is abysmally dry — the roost site at 18-19,9 has almost dried, even with today's rain. The small (18,30) tule bordered lake has finally developed mud ~~flats~~ borders — the first time that I have ever seen it w/o water running to or beyond the edge of the vegetation. In fact there were fuscicollis and other shorebirds foraging along the S shore. One notable event of the afternoon was the sighting of 200+ Swainson's hawks, soaring in a large flock over the Pampas grasslands.

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19 November

Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km. S of Juancho by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Provin. de Bs. Aires, Arg.

Began the morning at 0643 by running the linear grid. The Arroyo level is up and as a result it has expanded horizontally over a [illegible] meter in many places. Cloud = 5%, temperature = 12°C, a light W wind. Grid totals: Calidris fuscicollis 10; Arenaria interpres 2; Charadrius falklandicus 2; Himantopus h. 3; Anas georgicus 3; Larus maculipennis 1. Although I cannot be certain, I suspect that the increase in water level + thus decreased suitable of habitat for fuscicollis (in that those areas which were in optimum condition for foraging are no longer available because of ~~increas~~ water depths, and that areas now under suitable water-depth ranges have not 'matured', given the short time since inundation.) is responsible for the miserable # of WR along the Arroyo. We went as far upstream as (17,28) looking for concentrations of WR and found only a few small groups. A heavy % of those seen were territorial, suggesting I think that there levels are 1) either more space constant + thus less likely to respond to ~~the~~ weather-induced variations in habitat or 2) the areas where they are territorial are less variable, perhaps by being less susceptible to weather for some reason. At 1030 we ~~be~~ began censusing a newly placed 'grid' between sub-units 2 and 3 of the linear grid - i.e. (11,16) - for % territorial bird calculation #4. See ~~#~~ Calidris fuscicollis sp. accent, % TB book #1, Linear grid 74B following data book. The array of territories was clear and consistent throughout the morning - by 1200 we had 10 % terr. b. calculations with an average of 75%. White-rumps on the grid averaged 3.7/sample. The grid was 80m x 15m divided into 45 5x5 m subunits and placed with the long axis along the direction of flow of the Arroyo current. I placed the grid deliberately to incorporate part of RplpA's territory, and also to include as much Arroyo as possible. See % TB book for map of area and WR territories. 3 WR controlled the entire stretch, in 3 individual, well defined territories and only occasionally did other WR penetrate the defenses. During the calculation period and throughout the rest of the day we monitored the units for a habitat stability measurement and performed the requisite microhabitat measurements for the patchiness measure. The latter must wait analysis, but as of 1930 ~~there~~ there was 0% change. Water level did decrease by 1.5 cm during

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Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

19 November (cont'd)

the 1.5 hr. current period and as a result retract 24 cm horizontal along the shore, but this did not cause any measurable change by the stability measure. Nor did an afternoon 3 cm water level increase (increasing S wind blowing upstream), nor did the 1.5 cm decline when the wind died (in fact, it returned it to the morning's level.

Grid 17B, Tower, (1,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires

20 November

on Tower at 0630 after an early morning light rain and wind. By 0630, however, weather was clearing and it was obvious that the storm never was to develop - clouds moving quickly off toward the NE. By 0750 sky cleared to 80% cloud cover. I began sampling 17B at 0730. At 0800 Lois began a simultaneous monitoring of sites of aggression on 17B. This she continued until 1100. I sampled every 15 minutes with one spotting sites between sample times until 1230, and then we left the tower. See Tryngites for accounts of specifics of events during the morning. Also 17B data book - samples and Grid 16-17 data book for aggression sites. Density of buffies was down from our last observation period (11-12-74), from 10.8/sample to 8.5/sample. There was a marked increase in the number and consistency of space-specific birds during today's observation period as compared to that of 11-12-74. And, as one would hope, the $(m/x)_6$ index showed a much more even dispersion pattern, staying below 1.0 for almost all samples except during spooks and the period immediately following spooks. I was able to get an excellent series of spooked points, including a succession of 2 min samples following one spooking (at 1030) from an $(m/x)_6$ of 6.8 → 1.69 in 6 minutes. Goldens maintained the even dispersion which has been their characteristic since we began these calculations. It appears that there are an equivalent # of territorial birds on 17b (mean of 5.5 birds/sample). Also, the 16a golden for which we have a number of days of following data showing little change in boundaries over these again this morning, although we did not take any more following data.

Grid 15, (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

21 November

0635 reached the large scale bluffy grid, #15, and began sampling immediately. The

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21 November (cont'd)

Grid 15 (0,18) region, Estancia Med aland, 35 Kms. S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires Arg.
sun rose at 0528 clouds ~10%. light W wind. temp = 13° (8°C at dawn). IVL = 18.6.
Finished subunit 10 at 0700. Grid totals: Tryngites subruficollis 46; Calidris bairdii 3; Limosa haemastica 1; Pluvialis dominica 109; Vanellus chilensis 4; Otis macrodasa 2; Speotyto cunicularia 1. Thus the decline in buffy numbers continues, although golden appear to be maintaining themselves. Buffies now can be found only in units 5-10. Interestingly, whereas before they were not using 9 or 10, now these are the most heavily used subunits. Today, as during the last sampling day (10 November) there was considerable supplanting going on as we sampled. Recall that the tower, where we've been working extensively recently, lies just beyond subunit 8 of Grid 15. Thus it may be reasonable to assume that some of the events occurring on 17b have also been happening on 15. During the rest of the morning we took Tryngites microhabitat data (reaching #51) in the (4,15) region. I also collected a territorial Tryngites (#177).

Grid 17b, Tower, (4,18) region, Estancia Med aland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Arg

22 November

reached tower at 0630, somewhat later than I had hoped, but slowed by a non-starting car. Birds were on the grid when we arrived, and left, but quickly adapted to our presence & have no fears that any of them, even the golden, are in the least bit spooked by us once we get into the blind. We even have territorial Tryngites beneath the wheels! Temperature at 0700 when we began sampling (all day at 15 min intervals plus additional ones if the birds spooked) was 7°C, 0% clouds, light NW wind. Dawn was at 0527. See Tryngites sp. account for a running account of grid events. Also see grid 17b data book for dispersion samples, see Grid 16-17 following data book for plots of aggression sites and times thereof. See % TB calculation #s for a calculation of the % of territorial buffies made between 1000 and 1300. The buffy Grid totals (calculated for regular samples i.e. those from the 15 min intervals) Tryngites subruficollis 7.3 (ave.) (0-17 range) 356 (total) (49 samples) Pluvialis dominica 3.9 (0-7) 122 (31 samples). Means are somewhat lower today than 20 November, in part because there was a series of

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Grid 17B, Tower (1,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Tandil by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Provincia Bs. Aires, Argentina

22 November

samples during which the birds were off the grid for one reason or another. In addition, buffy territories had expanded to a point where several territories present 20 November had been devoured, leaving fewer territories on or impinging upon the area encompassed by the grid. In fact, there were 13 territories vigorously defended during the morning (Ace Tryngites sp. accent). The %TB calculation yielded a value of 97% !!! I have considerable confidence in that figure being either so, or higher. During the morning, following an unusually long spook during which the birds may have gone to the Arroyo, territories ruled the grid. Then in early afternoon, after the birds went to the Arroyo, territories were less vigorously maintained in some areas, tho' they were kept up in others. I obtained a nice series of samples following a spook induced by the overflight of a Swainson's hawk, data taking points for 3 successive 2 min intervals. We remained somehow on the tower until 1900, by which time all but one of the birds (both sexes) had left, although Pluv. remained as would be expected. During most of the day we have data which will allow frequency of aggression to be determined. Weather remained clear throughout most of the day. Temperature rose to ~25°C. Wind grew to a moderate NW wind and remained steady until late afternoon.

Linear grid subunit 3 (11,16), Arroyo Chico, Estancia Medaland, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Arg.

25 November

drove from camp along Arroyo Chico looking for concentrations of WR with the intent of locating an area for calculating %TB, etc. The low level of water surprised us - the evening of the 22 it rained ~17 mm, and such downpourings have not, in the past, receded as quickly as this one has. This morning there was no current. But it was obvious from the water line that within the past 48 hours water had been up ~10-15 cm, at least briefly. Probably the series of days with continuous, strong W and NW winds has had considerable drying effect, serving not only to increase evaporation but also

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Linear grid subunit 3, Arroyo Chico (11,16) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Bs. Aires, Argentina.

25 November (cont'd)

to literally push the water downstream. Many went, there were considerable #'s of fascicollis along the linear grid - in fact I sighted 5 birds banded last year and 2 since August, the majority of which I'd not seen in the Arroyo for a month or more. Although I made no total count, I estimate there to have been easily over 100 fascicollis. Anyway, traveling up the linear grid, the two densest concentrations were both conveniently located on already gridded subunits, namely sub 3 + sub 4. When we passed by at 0715, more were on 3 than 4; thus when we reached the end of the grid we decided to work subunit 3 for one hour calculation of % territorial birds and related habitat variables. Returning to 3, we found at 0805 that many of them had left, leaving a group of ~15 in the area. We opted to remain there + make the calculations. See % TB Calculation #6, also Linear grid following data book, and the Calidris fascicollis sp. accent. We censused birds from 0825 to 1025, doing at 10 min intervals (13 samples). During the first 10 samples, the total count was broken down into territorial and non-territorial categories, and a % TB figure was calculated for each of these 10 censuses. Finally, the ten %TB figures were averaged. Results: 4.8 birds/sample; 36.7% territorial birds present/sample. During the observation period not only did the # of birds decline, but the consistency of territorial defense increased (with a few lapses). For the early portion of the observation period, some interactions were confusing as to their degree of space-specificity. This was no doubt due in part to the complications induced by increased numbers. But I think it fair to say that intermediate birds were present, and eventually left, given them, perhaps as a result of the constant action of the 2 consistent territorial birds using parts of the grid. We are not sure how long the flock has been present, nor, indeed, if the 2 main terr. bird's came in with the flock influx. I do know that the flock was not here 20 November, and that few birds are ever in this unit under the conditions which must have prevailed here yesterday morning after the rain. Thus I think it reasonable to suggest that

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Linear grid Subunit 3, Arroyo Chico, (11,16) Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Madariaga, Provincia de Bs. Aires, Argentina

25 November (cont'd)

that the influx has occurred within the last 24-36 hours. The behaviour of the birds present also suggest, strongly, a non-climax situation. Territories were being established (except 11-25-74 A's - which ~~was~~ were quite large), and boundaries ~~were~~ not ~~repeated~~ did not have the fixity which we have found in other places. Further, the actions of the intermediate birds, and the fact that there was a steady decline in numbers suggested that the array was still evolving here. But this is stretching our knowledge of this particular unit too much. During the afternoon we made the requisite habitat measurements. Sky remained 0% clouds, the wind continued strongly out of the WNW, and temperature rose to 25°C. However, at 1320 there was a dramatic shift in the wind to a S direction, a wind that by the smell of it (or our sardine lunch) had been on the sea. The air took on the appearances of one above the Big Sur Matrix just ~~as~~ after the fog's been burned off. And the temperature dropped 6°C. As a result of the wind, in the next 2 hours weather heights rose ~ 1 cm, causing up to 20cm horizontal expansion. This did not, however, effect the habitat stability measure, which showed 0% change at and before 1900.

27 November

We spent the entire morning out along the upper regions of Arroyo Chico, taking micro habitat points on Limosa, Micropalama, and a few others. The Arroyo continues on its drying ways - retracting to a series of disconnected puddles which themselves are long, narrow, and quintessent WR habitat. They abound, and many are showing space-specific aggression. I collected 3 territorial WR this morning (178, 180, and 181), as well as one of unknown status (179) which was in a flock with 180 and 181. These 3 were with ~~R~~ Rg-g A, a new resighting for returned WR. (See WR sp. accent re activities of that particular flock). Weather during the morning was ~~warm~~ cool with intermittent bursts of heavy rain, precipitating from cumulus horribly coming out of the S. Typical of weather we had here last spring.

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Grid 17b, Tower (0,18) region, Estancia Medaland, 35 Km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo. de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

28 November — reached tower at 0550 and quickly repaired the damage caused by a windstorm of several days ago. Began sampling at 0630. This morning contrasted with recent days because of the extensive light frost, both in and around camp as well as out in the open grasslands. Birds were arriving with us, although some had already invaded the area. [back to weather → 0% clouds, a light NW wind which was all that remained of hefty gusty winds present from ~0300 → 0330. During the morning until 1130, I sampled buffy and golden dispersion every 15 minutes (see 17b data book.) Simultaneously, Lois recorded times, positions, and types of aggressive behaviors occurring on the grid (see 16-17 data book). Grid totals: Tryngites subruficollis 7.1 (average) (3-10 range) 149 (total) Pluvialis dominica 5.0 (4-7)/05. 21 samples plus one spooled sample (the latter not included in the grid totals.) The general picture on the grid this morning was, again, for both Pluv. and Tryngites, territoriality. The bird's dispersion was very stable; indeed we saw only two spooks, one of which was caused by me yelling at naughty sheep. Observation revealed that 12-13 buffie territories impinged upon the grid. Their size and shape were similar to those of territories of 11-22 (see buffy sp. accnt), although in parts of the grid there had been some expansion. Given the uniformity of the area + the fact that there are not enough prominent landmarks present to allow one to hypothesize that any groups of buffies would use the same borders, I am led to conclude that the same birds are involved. See Tryngites sp. accnt. A % Territorial bird calculation for Tryngites for samples taken between 0900 → 1130 yielded a value of 97% TB. This may be somewhat low. (yes, low) Wind increased to moderately strong NW by 1130.

(7,12) Estancia Medaland, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

at 1820 I began counting shorebirds flying / 5 min time periods, recording incident vertical light (IVL) with a gossen-luna pro spot meter. Records are transcribed from the tape into the flocking accent of this notebook. We moved the observation post from (8,11) to (7,12) (at the former site we have several evening data; see flocking accnt) because of the low number of Tryngites passing us at (8,12) last 17 November and because

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(7,12) Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Partido de Madariaga, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

28 November (cont'd)

the new site at (7,12) lies directly above the Arroyo and a flightway for other species, particularly fuscicollis, which otherwise we miss. As usual, procedure is for the two of us to count all flying shorebirds within 500 m of the car on all directions; Lois takes on ½ circle, I take the other. Any flying shorebird is counted, even if, for e.g., it is a bird which is obviously supplanting or supplanted. Usually, as this evening, these contributions of three to the total # are overwhelmed by the flux during roosting flights. Totals: Calidris fuscicollis 124; Calidris bairdii 25; Calidris melantos 8; Micropalama himantopus 9; Tryngites subruficollis 322; Limosa haemastica 135; Tringa flavipes 6; ~~Pluvialis~~ Arenaria interpres 1; ~~Pluvialis~~ Pluvialis dominicana 58; Vanellus chilensis 29; Himantopus 4. 6 Several surprises, but first — Tryngites peaked strongly at their usual time, ~20 min before sunset. The peak was considerably stronger last time, not muffled by a pre-peak (although there was a slight pre peak). Further, most of the birds (buffs) were picked up in flocks of 10+, including one of 40. The drop in golden numbers was precipitous — disastrously and enigmatically so. We picked up no roosting flights. I see two possibilities, which must be interpreted in light of the fact that goldens are still the most numerous species of migrant on the Estancia. 1) - 6(7,12) is not on a roosting pathway - but I can see golden roosting flights for more than 1 km distant and tonight, even though we know they were out there this afternoon, there were none. 2) they are flying back individually. difficult to believe such a drastic change would occur so quickly 3) they are remaining on territories. I know that there were birds supplanting by us until 2010, when we could just barely see them. But this too would require a drastic change to produce such a difference in the count. Anyway...

Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Ptdo de Madariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

29 November

Spent this a.m. taking micro-habitat data on an assortment of species of shorebird in both upland and shore habitats. We began by driving along the road to (4,15), then cutting north east to the (8,20) gate, and following the series of gates along the Rte 11 side as far as (22,34). From (22,34) we followed the Arroyo all the way back down to (8,13) and then returned directly to camp. I did not count #'s of shorebirds seen

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29 November (cont'd)

Estancia Medaland, 35 km S. of Juancho by road, Pdo de Mediariaga, Pcia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

and only in a few areas was I did I take sightings records. However, I have the following impression of distribution + abundance of the different common species: Vanellus chilensis abundant but dispersed, no where in flocks, rarely more than 2-4/hectare. occurring in all grass types under 8" in height + higher if the grass horizontal density is not too great. Pluvialis dominicana - numerically the dominant species with several thousand birds using the grasslands. predominately a short grass bird, but will utilize higher thin grass types will also use patches of short grass within other grass types (as opposed to Tryngites, which will not). Pluvialis also can be found along the Arroyo, foraging either from shallow water to the grass edge. but the contribution of Arroyo users to the total # of Pluvialis is miniscule.

— Charadrius falklandicus — almost exclusively an Arroyo bird. - all today in Heber few now as compared to summer, fall + winter when migrant non-breeders are here. There is a breeding population present, - this year minimum of 6 pairs based, probably more, along 5 km of Arroyo.

— Tryngites subruficollis - easily the 2nd most numerous shorebird. almost exclusively a short grass bird, using heights under 4cm. very occasionally do I see them in grasses up to 10 cm and there only in very thin vegetation - e.g. Juncus. they appear to require expanses of uniform suitable habitat, not using the small (25×50 or so) patches of short grass one occasionally finds Pluvialis in. At least 2000 of them on the Estancia. I was amazed this morning - even after roosting flight observations, particularly those of 6 Nov. - to see the number + very great overall dispersion of them. they appear to be in all suitable areas available. the quantity of which decreases as grass grows. Along our route, the only place we did not see them (except the Arroyo proper) was the potrero between the (8,20) and (10,26) gates. when the grass is high anyway they were especially abundant - more so than Pluvialis, above the (29,17) gate.

— Micropalama himantopus - few seen this morning, ≤ 20. their habitat has never really developed this year, and most sightings are in the Arroyo, which last year they did not prefer. Calidris fuscicollis - #3 in abundance, perhaps 300-400 including those along the Arroyo + in other marshier areas. Still, their abundance does not compare favorably with last year. these birds forage almost exclusively in water ≤ 4.5 cm deep

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29 November (cont'd)

to just above the shoreline - and there almost never unless the substrate is very moist (as it might be given receding water. this year they have not had much of a choice of habitat as most of the marshes are dry. Nonetheless, where marshes were available fuscicollis chose places with little emergent vegetation - usually bare mud. Typically one finds their drill prints concentrated in depressions in the substrate. They do choose places with a % of algal mat.

Calidris melanotos - very few in areas we visited this morning. Almost invariably these foraging areas have emergent vegetation - in fact, they are as likely to occur or more so in upland fields than as in the Arroyo where there is no vegetation at all.

Calidris bairdii no more than 100 remain now on the Estancia, the heavy majority of which are in upland short grass with Tryngites. They do occur regularly in the Arroyo, although typically one finds them above the shoreline on dry substrate, even though they will forage in the H2O. Perhaps fuscicollis does supplant bairdii, and may play a role in keeping them away from the water's edge. The population here is melting. I have seen no sign of territoriality during the last 2 months.

Tringa flavipes - common but very dispersed, as a result of well-developed territorial system. This species has also suffered from lack of A-1 habitat, which last year was the typical drying pond cluttered with emergent vegetation (grasses + Solanum).

Limosa haemastica - common in the Arroyo in areas with a high proportion of mud (to sand) also present in uplands although less than in water. In uplands I've seen them only in short grass habitat.

During several journal entries, e.g. this morning's, I have referred to micro habitat data which we are taking on the various members of the shorebird community. By that I meant the following procedure: a bird is selected and followed for 2 min (if possible, 2 birds are followed simultaneously). At the end of the following period, I note the next place where the bird places its bill (with a peck, jab, thrust, etc). Going to that point, I measure

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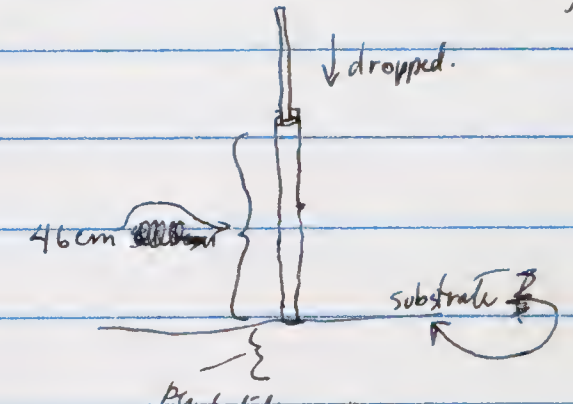
1) distance to water

2) % cover

a) vegetation b) mud c) dirt, d water – done by placing a 20 cm × 20cm grid centered over the bill point and counting the number of 2 × 2 cm squares falling within each category. reads directly to % as there are 100 squares.

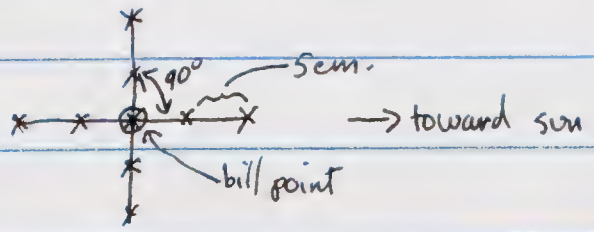
3) penetrability: depth to which a vertically dropped brass bar 100.5 cm long and 0.25" diameter (weighing 268 gm) will penetrate the substrate. recorded in cm. the tip of the rod is sharpened to a point :¼" ⟨ ¼". It is held vertically and dropped from a standard height of 46 cm by raising it to a standard point in a brass tube of 3/8" inner diameter (+ 52 cm long).



4) water depths – sampled at 5 points –

a) at the bill

b) in a pattern around the bill:



i.e. horizontal density at 2cm at 4cm at 6cm etc until 0.

5) microtopographic variation – measured at same points as b) in water depth pattern – measured as distance to a bar held horizontally 10cm above the point of bill contact

6) vegetation horizontal density – # of contacts with vegetation a 3/16" bar makes in 20 cm, 10cm on each side of the bill. across 2 samples, one in directions as indicated for water depths (samples at every 2cm above soil)

7) time, wind, temperature (air in shade at 10cm above substrate, and substrate).

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